

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda  
Minutes for Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Don Crouch, Dave Gelo, Jason Michael, Steve Rossacci, and Mike Savenelli Sr

**Recreation Commission Members Absent:**

**Recreation Department Staff Present:** Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

**Special Guests:**

**Opening Remarks:** Chairperson Jason Michael called the meeting to order @ 8:03 a.m.

**Minutes:**

A motion made by Dave Gelo seconded by Mike Savenelli to approved minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting.

**Public Question/Answering:**

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Discussion regarding outcome of 10/5/2021 Ordinance Committee meeting regarding waiver appeal process:**

Jason Michael stated that Councilor Tata brought the waiver process up to the Ordinance Committee. She was unaware there was a change that a 501C3 does not need to submit a waiver. She did not think there was a process for exception. There is a process already in place. Last year the Mayor and the Legal Dept rewrote the waiver process to be extremely simplistic, including reducing the requirement of Wallingford resident participation from 90% to 80%.

Jason said there is a potential that in the future we may receive too many of these request that could impact the public use of park.

Currently Ordinance 151-12 Denial of Permit appeal is what would be followed.

The Ordinance Committee Voted: 4 to 3 to not have an additional appeal process.

The waiver process will remain as is.

**2. Advertising signs in parks – Jason Michael & Don Crouch**

Kenny has had more pressing matters that needed to be addressed. Kenny will reach out to Kevin Pagini, Town Planner, on having advertising in the parks next week.

**3. Community Pool – Mike Savenelli – Kenny Michaels**

Mike Savenelli said they heard a lot of different items about the pool. He is very disappointed with the Mayor for not being able to decide about the pool. The Mayor's reasons for not moving forward have varied over the past two years. The expectation was to have a decision of either moving forward, redesign, or table the project at this point.

Don Crouch said if we looked at the infrastructure of the current pool it needs repair which will cost a lot of money. So, what do we do with the land?

A meeting will be setup for mid-November with the Mayor for a future action plan.

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> agenda item YMCA Pool Project was discussed.

Two Town Councilors said rather than give the YMCA money for their private business project we need to take care of Wallingford property first.

Any money given to the YMCA cannot be bonded because the Town does not own the property.

The money would have to come from a direct source.

The YMCA said pool passes will be daily, monthly, or yearly pool pass. In the newspaper however, it was stated to use the pool you would need to be a member of the YMCA.

The YMCA did a presentation for the Rec Commission last month and they said the two large businesses will partner with the YMCA is Masonicare and Gaylord. They are looking to utilize the pool as a therapy pool.

4. **Wallace Park – Legacy Garden Status of Acceptance Letter. Solidify Date of Dedication – Dave Gelo and Don Crouch**

Nolan Monument from Hamden was the lowest bidder on the stone for the Legacy Gardens.

Question was asked if there was a base, but the other stones were just laid in the grass.

The new dedication date is Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

5. **Pickle Ball at Harrison Park**

Redoing the pickle ball courts will be a spring project. In another 2 weeks a meeting with Engineering and the Mayor to discuss the design for the courts. Jason raised a concern about the noise from pickle ball that someone living on Cass Ave could hear clearly the noise of the ball hitting the paddle.

Kenny said he has not heard of anyone complaining about the noise.

6. **Lufbery Pavilion Reconfiguration Post Walk-through**

The Rec Commission and Kenny met 3 weeks ago at Lufbery Park to look at relocation of the pavilion. They would like to have the pavilion closer to the restroom building toward the south side of that building. The area currently is unused space and potentially allows for more parking. There is also an area for a playscape and the old play equipment could be eliminated.

A meeting will be setup with Rob Baltramaitis, Director of Public Works, and Engineering to determine if that is the best location.

The funding is in the Department of Public Works' budget.

7. **Community Lake Clearing – Dave Gelo**

BCI out of Windsor was the winner of the bid. They will clear 900ft of shoreline. The specs were explicit as to what needs to be done.

**8. Initiate discussion regarding possible options for Community Pool property in the event the Mayor renders a decision as to his continued support or termination of the project as it currently stands.**

Jason Michaels said no backup plan was developed because it appears the Pool project would move forward. If the current Pool plan is dead then maybe an option would be to come up with a new design that would cost less.

With having spent \$477,000 already Jason wondered if the company would be interested in working with us to redesign the project to a smaller size with better amenities for more use of the park. The bathhouse is a solid structure, but major renovations needs to be done. The core tests should still be valid. A question was asked of the Town Clerk if people are putting in their own personal pools. Yes, there has been an increase of permits.

Kenny said area Towns doing pool projects have a smaller pool than what their project had.

The use of Sheehan pool was eliminated due to budget constraints and pool usage, maybe we need to be able to offer that again.

A commitment from the public leaders is required so the project can either move forward as is or revise the design of the park.

**9. Open Discussion: (2/3 votes required to discuss item)**

**Directors Report: Ken Michaels**

Bill Farm is retiring after 30 years of managing the adult softball leagues (spring/Fall), Men's Basketball, SWISH (women's basketball), and Twilight Basketball. Bill umpired last game on Tuesday evening (10/12). We wish Bill a long and enjoyable retirement in Florida. Kenny is looking to rename the Adult Slo-pitch League after Bill.

Kenny asked that Janis Small, Law Dept, be added to the next agenda for FOI training.

1. Effective November 30<sup>th</sup>, Shirley Barillaro will be retiring as Sr. Clerk. The interview process is underway to hopefully have a replacement in place by end of the month. This will give ample training time to the new hire. Shirley has been an important part of our team over the last 7 years and will be sorely missed.
2. Parks and Recreation Departments and Public Works Departments are having trouble purchasing field paint. There is a national shortage on exterior latex paint. After some calls, I was able to link Public Works with Pioneer Field Paint. We are hoping to have field paint in 7 days to get fields done.
3. Roy Haynes has been hired to replace Jim Walsh as the Assistant Director of the Weber and Gannon League Replacing Jim Walsh who retired.
4. Community Lake Land Clearing quote was awarded to BCI Inc out of Windsor. Message was left to set up date for clearing.
5. Dog Park Fencing Repairs from Storm last year was completed on Friday by Durham Fence Co.

6. Recently installed a vision board at Doolittle Park for nonverbal communicators to have the ability to communicate with their peers at the playground. This was an idea proposed by Wallingford Resident and Speech Pathologist Lynn LaValley about a year ago. PW finally got to installing the sign and a dedication will be Wednesday at 4:30pm at Doolittle Park.
7. Quotes for monuments for Legacy Gardens has been complete. Nolan Monuments out of Hamden has been awarded the project. Need to get with PW to cut out area to put monuments. Push ceremony to second weekend in Nov.
8. Met with Trail Users of Tyler Mill Wed Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Joe Robles represented the Mountain Bikers, Scott Gray Trail Steward, Lynda Thomas Horseback Rides and absent, but invited was Bill Holroyd representing the Hunters. This was the first meeting stemming from the open space users meeting in the fall and how we can have all groups work together and represent their groups with recreational opportunities out in Tyler Mill. We are looking to have these meeting possibly quarterly or as needed. Discussion was had and presented by those in attendance to have the Trails committee fall under Parks and Recreation not Conservation Commission. This will need to be a discussion with the Mayor and get his thoughts.

**Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 8:00 AM**

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:55 a.m. by Mike Savenelli seconded by Steve Rossacci

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk  
Wallingford Parks and Recreation