

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 11, 2022
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

Commissioners in Attendance:

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:

Approval of Minutes from April 20th meeting

Public Question/Answer Period:

Agenda Items:

1. **Advertising signs in parks, revisit for update** – Kenny no update
2. **Discuss initiation of “The State of the Parks” report.**

Jason wants to set up a schedule to walk the parks with the Commission once a week. A PowerPoint presentation will be developed with the findings of each park. Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. may be a good time for the Commission to meet at the parks. Jason will check to see if this is considered a quorum. He will call Janis Small to verify.

3. **Community Lake seasonal clearing schedule**

Seasonal clearing needs to be addressed at Community Lake. Mike suggested that Community Lake be one of the first parks they look at.

4. **Pickle Ball @ Harrison Park (possible noise concern)**

Jason suggested that they get a noise suppression quote incase the problem arises of possible noise concerns in the future.

Kenny said the painting is being done on the Pick Ball courts and the courts may be ready for use early next week.

5. **Wharton Brook @ Doolittle (shoreline clearing)**

The overgrowth at Doolittle at the Wharton Brook needs to be addressed. Lack of maintenance is causing the brook to be not accessible and unsafe. Kenny will notify Public Works regarding this.

6. Lufbery reconfiguration, revisit for update

A meeting will be set up to meet at Lufbery to address this. Kenny will send an email to Rob and Allison.

7. Wallingford Community Women memorial bench and mini library donation in memory of Amy Blakeslee Vets park update (Kenny Michaels)

Kenny said a bench was purchased, but has not arrived yet. We will have the mini library installed after it is built. Both items need to be officially donated by Community Women.

8. Community garden shed plan

The shed is 8x10. Kenny will check with Michelle Bjorkman regarding the plan for the shed.

9. Opening “Community Pool Park” despite the pool status.

Jason wants to look into opening Community Pool Park without the pool. He feels that the area will be neglected if the gate remains locked. Mike disagrees with opening the area. Kenny agreed with Mike.

Open Discussion: (2/3 votes required to discuss item) - All in favor for open discussion.

Dave looking for update on Legacy Garden. The monuments are paid for but have not been delivered yet. Kenny needs the area cleared out by Public Works before the monuments are delivered. No date is confirmed yet. Multiple requests have been sent to Public Works to get this done. Steve Rossacci has already spoken to Kenny and Jason and he will be stepping down from the Commission. Mike may know someone who may want to join the Commission. He will contact that person soon.

Director’s Report: Kenny Michaels

(See attached document)

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday June 8, 2022 @ 8:00 AM –

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:25 a.m. motion by Mike Savenelli seconded by Jason Michael

Respectfully submitted,

Loriann Ouellette, Senior Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation

Director's Report
Recreation Commission Meeting
May 11, 2022

1. Summer Brochure delivered to the Recreation Department and post office May 10, 2022. Email going to homes on May 11, 2022 with digital copy.
2. Met recently with users of Tyler Mill on site. Joe Robles representing the Mountain Bikers, Scott Gray representing Stewards, Bill Holroyd representing the Hunters and Jim Pyskaty representing the Conservation Commission out at Tyler Mill. The purpose of the meeting was to get all parties on the same page and to get all groups working together to mitigate past animosity between mountain bikers and the conservation commission. From this meeting the mayor has named me Trails Administrator for Tyler Mill. Any work looking to be done by any group is to submit a proposal to the recreation department for review. This includes; trail creation, trail re-routing, blazing, building, etc. Parks and Recreation will review, consulting with various departments and the conservation commission proposed projects before rendering a decision. This puts a process in place and the goal is to avoid and the illegal work being done without permission.
3. Over next month, Gateway Fencing will be doing fencing repairs at Keller Fields 1-5 to repair curling fence mesh on ball fields, replacing outfield fencing on field 2, replace the posts on the top of the batting cages.
4. Project Graduation will be hosted at the Parks and Recreation Department on June 15. Department will close for activities Tuesday June 14 at 5pm for set up. All activities on June 15 will be canceled and will resume 10am on Thursday June 16.
5. Parks and Recreation Department will also be hosting the Moran 8th Grade Formal. This will be in the gym on Friday June 3rd. The parents were seeking a location after the schools told them they would not host due to rising covid cases.
6. Wallingford Farmers Market opening weekend May 7 was canceled due to the weather. Weather permitting the market will kick off Saturday May 14.
7. Department has been trying to fill vacated positions. Part Time Office Clerical, Part Time Assistant Recreation Program Specialist. We have posted both positions for a second time with interviews for the Office Clerical Position May 16-17. We will also be looking to hire 2 part time maintainers for a total of 4 part time positions looking to be filled.
8. Met with Rob from PW at Doolittle Park fencing on the south east side of the playscape needs repair and over growth needs to be removed. This stems from a complaint from a Wallingford resident in regards to the fencing. Will be contacting fencing vendor to get pricing on repairing the fence.
9. Doolittle Park Security Camera bid specs are posted. Bid walk through is May 19, with bid opening on May 26.
10. Harrison Park Pickleball project is moving along. With the favorable weather this week, contract thinks they can have done by the weekend with play commencing on Monday.