

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting March 20, 2023

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:30p.m. at the Mildred Wakeley Community Center, Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Centone at 5:30p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Keith Macdowall,
Chris Pagan, Mary Lou Stamp, Joan Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Frank Montagna

Staff Present: Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Jennifer Klein, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Keith Macdowall made a motion to accept the Minutes of January 17, 2023, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Bob Kowalewski made a motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2023, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

Request from Pride Day Group members to speak about event on the Town Green

Jamie Krzmarzick and Amanda Gabriele were in attendance to give an overview of the First Annual North Haven Pride Celebration that will take place on the Town Green on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. Ms. Krzmarzick advised that the group met with First Selectman Michael Freda with a presentation of why they thought that the town should host a pride event. She stated that Selectman Freda was supportive of the event. The event will be a family friendly event that includes food vendors and entertainment. The Commission members were also very supportive of the Pride Day event and echoed similar support to that of the First Selectman's Office.

IV. Director's Report

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

The scheduling of fields for North Haven youth programs spring and summer seasons is under way. Requests have been received from Max Sinoway, North Haven Girls' Softball League, North Haven Babe Ruth, North Haven Youth Lacrosse, North Haven Soccer Club, North Haven American Legion and Diamond Zone. Field usage will be coordinated with Steve Blumenthal and Phil Diana from the Board of Education.

Applications are being accepted for summer employment.

The Easter event is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2023. The event will run from 1:00 – 2:30. It will be held on the field behind the Recreation building. There will be face painting, crafts, selfies with the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt.

Registration for the adult softball league began March 13th. League play will be held on Wednesday evenings. Play begins April 12th.

Planning continues for summer playgrounds, day camp and sport camps. Summer camps are tentatively scheduled to run June 26th through August 5th. The Day Camp will be at the Recreation Building and a Playground site will be at held at one of the Elementary Schools. Day camp and Playgrounds will be six weeks.

Registration for Spring programs began February 27, 2023. Swim lessons are offered on Saturday mornings and Monday and Wednesday evenings. The reservation system for public swim has been discontinued on trial basis. The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive. It allows the swimmers the options of a longer visit or more than one swim a day.

The 28th Annual Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Sinoway Pond. Check-in 6:15 – 7:00am. Fishing runs 7:00 to 8:30am. Presentation of awards and trophies to immediately follow. All safety protocols will be adhered to.

Program information is offered online at the Town website and the Recreation Facebook page. Paper brochures will be available at the pool and the Recreation Building.

Concert dates May 30th to September 5th.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling:

- Recreational Special Olympics has been scheduled for the Vanacore Field Track from April 2, 2023, through June 4, 2023 (Sundays only).
- The American Legion – Junior and Senior Leagues has been scheduled for the North Haven Sports Complex (DeMayo Field) and Bailey Road field. Fields are needed from June 27, 2023, through August 31, 2023.
- North Haven Track (Runners) (BOE) have been scheduled for Vanacore Field Track from March 20, 2023, through June 9, 2023.
- The North Haven Freshman / Middle Baseball / Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) has been scheduled for Bailey Road field from March 18, 2023, through June 9, 2023.
- The North Haven Softball – (Varsity & Junior varsity), Baseball (Varsity & Junior Varsity) and Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) has been scheduled for Brook Field and the Sports Complex (including DeMayo Field) from March 18, 2023, through June 9, 2023.

- The North Haven Boys and Girls Tennis (BOE) has been scheduled for the North Haven Sports Complex from March 18, 2023, through June 9, 2023.
- The BOE High School Athletics continues to schedule the East and West Turf Fields for its sporting events from March 18, 2023, through June 9, 2023.
- The Max Sinoway Baseball has been scheduled to play at Montowese, Gateway, Green Acres, Clintonville School, Brook and Bailey Road fields. Various fields will be needed between March 25, 2023, (weather permitting) through August 31, 2023.
- The Annual Fishing Derby has been scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 7 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. at Chapman Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street.
- Public Works Field Operations will support efforts for the Annual Easter Extravaganza scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. on the Recreation Field behind the Pool.
- The North Haven Soccer Club has been scheduled for Memorial, Rock Road, and Ridge Road fields. Fields are needed from March 25, 2023, through June 30, 2023 (and again in July and August included for Summer Soccer Camps).
- The North Haven Girls' Softball has been scheduled for Gateway Fields 2 – 7. Fields are needed from March 25, 2023, through July 31, 2023.
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse has been scheduled for the Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields. Fields are needed from March 25, 2023, through June 31, 2023.
- The Diamond Zone 120 Baseball has been scheduled for Grover Wyman Park from March 15, 2023, through August 31, 2023.
- Adult Recreation Softball at the Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields. Fields are needed from April 19, 2023, through August 2, 2023.
- Max Sinoway is hosting its annual Opening Day Festivities at Montowese Fields on April 22, 2023, at 10 A.M.
- The Vox Church will host its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Town Green on April 1, 2023, at 10 A.M. with a rain date of April 8, 2023.
- The American Legion will be sponsoring its annual walk-a-thon on April 22, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 NOON around the Town Green to benefit the Children's Hospital Network.
- The Annual May Market has been scheduled for the North Haven Garden Club in the Mildred A. Wakeley Recreation Center for Saturday, May 13, 2023.

- The 2023 Annual Summer Concert Series (15 concerts this year) is scheduled to start Tuesday, May 30, 2023, and continue each Tuesday evening through September 5, 2023, on the Town Green.
- The North Haven Memorial Day Parade will be held along the Town Green on May 27, 2023, with a Rain Date of June 3, 2023.
- North Haven First Annual Pride Day Event will be held on the Town Green on June 17, 2023.
- St. Theresa's Church Carnival has reserved the Showmobile for use at its annual Carnival for June 23, 24, and 25, 2023.
- The BOE Strength and Condition Camp on the Vanacore Field Track from June 26, 2023, through August 9, 2023.
- The Animal Haven Anniversary Celebration is scheduled on the Town Green for July 15, 2023; no rain date has been scheduled.
- The Annual Toy Drive for the Sons and Daughters of Italy is scheduled on the Town Green for July 22, 2023, from 10 AM to 1 PM; no rain date has been scheduled.
- The Recreation Special Olympics for Blakeslee softball field (Mondays only) from July 1, 2023, through September 11, 2023.

Old Business

Reconstruction of Vanacore Track and Field

A presentation focusing on the 100% design aspect of the Plans and Specifications was made to the Board of Education and the Office of the First Selectman on February 24, 2022.

On April 27, 2022, the Town held a mandatory pre-bid meeting with all interested construction companies. The \$2.5 M project will be funded in part by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) dollars.

The Bid Opening Date occurred on May 4, 2022. DeRita and Sons Construction Company was awarded the contract work. The total cost of the project is \$2,500,000 and includes the complete reconstruction of the existing rubberized track, the replacement of the scoreboard, the complete reconstruction of the existing grass football field and irrigation system, the high jump pit, the long jump pit, associated lighting, paving of walkways and entrance areas among other items.

Construction on the Vanacore Track and Field started on June 4, 2022. The construction will conclude on/or before April 15, 2023.

Award of Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant Application

On July 15, 2022, the Department of Public Works prepared and submitted a Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application on behalf of the Town for the proposed replacement of two (2) playscapes at its Mildred A. Wakeley Recreation Center and for the addition of a new permanent

Bandstand on the Town Green to house its concerts and outdoor events. The total grant project request is \$350,000. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 20% match.

The State's Office of Policy Management (OPM) acknowledged the Town's application and advised the Town that it was awarded the grant on September 15, 2022.

The project received a positive 8-24 referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission on January 9, 2023. The project then went before the Board of Selectmen on February 2, 2023, for the call a Special Town Meeting on February 27, 2023. The matter was heard before the Special Town Meeting and unanimously approved by the members of the public.

Public Works is currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Design Building Contract for both the construction of replacement playscapes (2) and the construction of a new Band Stand on the Town Green. The Department of Public Works plans to Bid this RFP in early April 2023 and complete the consultant interview and award process in early May 2023.

Capital Bonding Package - Athletic Field Improvements, Middle School, and High School

The Board of Selectman met on May 5, 2022, and approved a resolution that recommended "a \$3.5 million appropriation and bond authorization for athletic field improvements, consisting of (1) installation of dugouts, grandstand seating, a press box and protective netting, restroom facilities improvements, additional parking, field improvements, and other related improvements at the girls high school softball field, and (2) relocation of the field, installation of dugouts, additional seating, a press box, batting cages and protective netting, additional parking, and other related improvements at the boys high school baseball field (DeMayo)."

The bond authorization for athletic field improvements was approved by the public at the Special Town Meeting held on June 6, 2022, Meeting.

Weston and Sampson Engineers, the selected Professional Engineering consultant has started with the design of the proposed improvements.

At this time, design plans are approximately 90% complete and a formal Application to the Town's Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) is being prepared for the Commission's April 26, 2023, Meeting. If approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission, the matter will be heard by the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission at its May 8, 2023, Meeting.

The Department of Public Works plans to schedule an Informaiton Session for the neighboring properties to the project and the public on/before the April 26, 2023, IWC Meeting date. It is the Department's hope to solicit concerns and comments from the public regarding the proposed improvements to the Board of Education's Athletic facilities.

New Business

Urban Act Grant - Bailey Road Baseball Field Improvements

On December 8, 2022, State Senator Paul Cicarella and State Representative David Yaccarino announced that the State's Bonding Commission approved of a \$250,000 Urban Act Grant for the Town

of North Haven to finance the field improvements at its Bailey Road Baseball Field. This grant has been awarded through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

The executed Urban Act Grant Contract Agreement and associated paperwork was received from the CT DEEP on March 14, 2023. The Department of Public Works is currently working with Weston and Sampson Engineers, the professional consultant to develop a Scope of Work for the project, including the Construction Plans and Bid Specifications.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (Calendar Year 2023):

- January 23rd – 29th – Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare
- February 6th – 12th - Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare
- February 20th – March 5th – North Haven High School Musical
- March 20th – 26th – North Haven Health and Racquet Club
- March 27th – April 2nd – Boy Scout Troop 811 Dinner
- April 3rd – 9th – North Haven Land Trust Shredding Event
- April 10th – 16th - Child Abuse Prevention Month (Community Services)
- April 3rd – 9th – North Haven Land Trust Shred Event
- April 17th – 30th – Earth Day Event – Conservation Commission North Haven
- May 8th – May 14th – North Haven Garden Club – May Market
- July 3rd – 16th – Animal Haven Anniversary Celebration
- August 28th – September 10th – U.S. Wealth Management Shred Event
- September 11th – October 1st Quinipiac Chamber Event
- October 23rd – 29th – Annual Prescription Drug Take Back Event
- October 20th – November 5th – Annual senior Center Holiday Fair

V. Old Business

Mary Lou Stamp asked if there was an update on the “Little Free Library” that was discussed at the January meeting. Andy advised that he contacted Sue Ann D’adamo to advise that her request was approved on a probationary basis.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Public Participation:

None

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Mary Lou Stamp, seconded by Keith Macdowall. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 5:30p.m.