

DRAFT MINUTES/UNAPPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting January 19, 2021

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19th. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:32pm.

I. Attendance

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Frank Montagna, Chris Pagan, Susan Puzycki, Mary Lou Stamp, Joan Walsh

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 16, 2020, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence

Letter received from North Haven residents, Kim Carney and Jeanine Schmidt, to request construction of pickleball courts in North Haven.

IV. Director's Report

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Friday, December 4, 2020 on the front steps of Town Hall. The event was done through a live video feed produced by NHTV. There was no public due to Covid 19 restrictions for gatherings. Mike Freda read a holiday greeting and then lead a countdown to light the tree.

Andy thanked Dave Ferraiuolo of Primary Electric for stringing the lights on the tree on the green for the event, Mike Maturo and all his staff at Public Works and Walter Mann and his staff at NHTV for filming the event.

Winter recreation and pool programs were cancelled. The pool is open following the current guidelines.

Summer employment applications have been postponed. No decision has been made at this time on the program.

Planning continues for the Easter event which is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2021. The event will run from 10:30 – 12:30. It will be a socially distant event. It will be a drive-up event with participants being handed a bag of chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the public.

Planning continues for the Fishing Derby which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 10th or 17th, 2021. The event will be different this year with fishing spots marked off 6 feet apart. There will be a set number of spots available and two time slots will be considered if needed. No refreshments will be provided. Trophies will be awarded for first fish caught, most fish caught and largest fish caught.

The planning for the adult softball league is underway. League play will be on Wednesdays. Tuesdays will be used for make ups if needed. Registration begins the first week of March. Play begins April 14th.

Planning continues for summer concerts, playgrounds, day camp and sport camps. It has not been determined what will be offered at this point. The concert schedule has not been determined.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Town Green Event(s)

On December 4, 2020, the Town Held the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Town Green.

On January 10, 17, 24 and 31 and February 7, 14, 21 and 28, and March 13, 14 2021 – practices for the production of The ‘Nutmcracker’ will be held on the Town Green Amphitheatre for the final production to be held on March 19, 20, and 21, 2021. The ‘rain/snow event dates’ are scheduled for March 27 and 28, 2021.

General Field and Athletic Programs

As of today’s Commission Meeting, General Field and Athletic Programs remain on hold.

However, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) indicates certain winter sports may commence with practices only starting January 19, 2021. This currently includes Girls and Boys Basketball, Hockey, Indoor Track and Boys Swimming.

Project Updates

Vanacore Concession, Meeting and Bathroom Facility

On October 26, 2018, a groundbreaking was held prior to the commencement of the Varsity Football home game.

On Monday, November 5, 2018, construction began as K & W Construction of Derby commenced with site work, including tree and tree stump removal, foundation excavation, and bringing in potable water, sanitary sewer and overhead electrical utilities.

K & W Construction personnel completed their work with members of the New Haven Building Trades who have agreed to supply ‘no cost’ labor for work related to the concrete slab on grade and the building’s 4,800 SF foundation. Concrete pours, including the slab on grade, are completed.

Capasso Restoration of North Haven completed their masonry block construction and wall work.

In 2019, roof shingles had been installed by the Local Roofers Union. The Carpenters Union had hung doors, Hardie Board siding, and installed locks to secure the facility.

Windows were installed and Insulation was completed in mid-October, 2020.

During the week of October 26, 2020, Createscapes Construction (Dave Ferraiuolo and staff) donated time and materials to prepare the site for the relocation of the existing electrical lines to be moved by John Bellamere and the Electrical Trades Union. On November 13, 2020, relocation of the existing electrical lines was conducted by John Bellamere and the Electrical Trades Union personnel. A splice box was purchased and installed on January 13, 2021 by K & W.

Jeff Wolcheski of the carpenters Union along with Sean Daly will be installing the plywood ceilings and completing the finished electrical inside the structure to be followed by finished plumbing this January – February 2021.

K + W completed the final site grading surrounding the new structure on January 13, 2021.

Lastly, the existing structure will be demolished by Quality Associates.

The project is expected to conclude in the summer of 2021, weather permitting.

The project is funded through a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant and monitored by the State of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

Green Acres Elementary School Kindergarten Playscape Project

On October 19, 2020, the Director of Public Works met with the School Principal and the Director of School Curriculum at the Green Acres Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the condition of the existing Kindergarten playscapes, their possible removal and ultimately, their replacement with new playscapes equipment.

Due to the condition and observed safety concerns, the existing Kindergarten playscape(s), including all equipment, were removed on November 6, 2020 by Public Works Field Operations.

A meeting was held on November 16, 2020, between the Elementary School, Public Works and engineering design professionals - Weston and Sampson to solicit design needs and associate project costs for Kindergarten replacement playscapes. Once a Project Scope has been developed and agreed upon, cost estimates will be developed and fund-raising efforts will be planned.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (Calendar Year 2021):

- o January 18th to 24th – St. Therese Nursery School;
- o January 25th to 31st - Sacred Heart Nursery School;
- o February 8th to 13th - Sacred Heart Nursery School;
- o March 29th to April 25th – Child Abuse Awareness Month;
- o September 13th to 19th – US Wealth Management Shred Day.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Pickleball Courts

On January 13, 2021, the Recreation Department received correspondence from residents in North Haven regarding the request for construction of a pickleball court or courts in North Haven. These residents requested they also be heard at the January 19, 2021 Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration of the project. Additionally, these residents have also spoken to the Office of the First Selectman prior to transmittal of a formal request to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Preliminary investigations and discussions with the Town of Cheshire have indicated that the Cheshire Parks and Recreation' Tennis/Pickleball Courts project entailed surface reconstruction and re-grading of their existing bituminous tennis courts with retaining perimeter fencing posts, painting them black and adding new black fence fabric.

Originally, there were five (5) tennis courts in the Town of Cheshire. Cheshire chose to maintain three (3) of the tennis courts and converted two (2) tennis courts in to six (6) separate pickleball courts constructed to United States of America Pickleball Construction (USAPC) standards. Cheshire chose a 3-coat color system of green and blue (pickleball "kitchen" areas left green). Cheshire utilized the WBA group (Bill Aniskovich) for consultation and Professional Design for the design and construction documents, which totaled approximately \$14,800. Cheshire then selected "The Hinding Group" for construction, which totaled approximately \$275,200 for the project. The project began early February 2020 with a ribbon cutting ceremony June 19, 2020.

North Haven is currently discussing the construction of one Pickleball Court, which may be constructed at the South Avenue Carina Park in Town. A meeting with The Hinding Group is being scheduled for cost purposes. Preliminary costs indicate approximately \$46,000 for two courts or \$91,000 for four courts construction.

These preliminary estimates will be reviewed with the Office of the First Selectman and the Department of Finance shortly.

VII. Public Participation

North Haven residents, Kim Carney and Jeanine Schmidt, provided information to the Commission regarding the popularity of pickleball and the need for pickleball courts in North Haven.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Al Centone, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:30pm.