

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting September 20, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Frank Montagna at 5:30pm.

I. Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent: Mary Lou Stamp

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Al Centone made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 17, 2021, seconded by Susan Puzycki. All were in favor, and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

None

IV. Director's Report

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

Summer Day Camp and Playgrounds ran June 28th through July 30th. The playground programs were located at Clintonville and Montowese with maximum number of 40 participants at each site. The Day Camp was held at the Recreation Center with a maximum number of 60 participants per week. All health and safety protocols were adhered to. Masks were worn when indoors.

The "Music Under the Stars" concert series ran July 6th through August 17th. Only one concert was cancelled due to inclement weather. There was no option to have the concerts at the High School because of Covid 19 restrictions. There was great feedback from the public on the various performers. Each week the number of attendees increased. Andy thanked Police, Fire, Field Operations and CERT Team for their assistance at each concert.

Swim lessons were not offered this summer but started September 18th.

Installation of new lights at Blakeslee Park and Gateway Field 1 caused a delay in the start of the adult softball league. The players were very happy with the new lights. League played ended August 4th.

The pool was closed August 9 - 22. The pool was drained and cleaned. The pool was inspected and is in good condition despite being over 30 years old. The shower area in the men's locker room was repainted. Pool deck and locker rooms cleaned from floor to ceiling. In July a new pool boiler was installed.

The Recreation Building gym floor was refinished. A section of the gym floor was stained to match the rest of the gym floor. The discoloration was from previous water damage.

Fall pool hours are now in effect.

Registration is underway for fall recreation and pool programs. Many programs started the week of September 13th.

The track lights are on at the Mike Vanacore Field. Lights will be on Monday through Thursday evenings, as weather permits, until December 23rd.

North Haven High School Girls swim team began their season on August 26th.
(M-F – 2:30 - 5:00 PM)

Hamden North Haven Swim team began their season on September 11th (M-W-F – 5-7 PM/Sat. 6:30-8:30 AM)

The Trunk or Treat event will be held at the North Haven High School parking lot on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00pm. This event is coordinated with Police, Fire, Cert Team, and the Knights of Columbus.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling (May 2021 to Present):

- The North Haven Garden Club held its annual plant sale on the Town Green on Saturday, May 8, 2021;
- The Annual Memorial Day Parade was held on Saturday, May 29, 2021. The parade route went along the Town Center and Town Green. The event was well attended;
- The Agency on Aging scheduled the Town Green for June 1, 2021 from 11 AM to 1 PM for a Staff Event Luncheon to thank its members. The rain date was June 2, 2021;
- The North Haven High School Band and Choir through Ken Tedeschi have reserved the Town Green amphitheater area for June 8, 2021 from 6 – 8 PM for the annual member and family event;

- The Elks Club held its annual tribute to Flag Day on the Town Green on June 11, 2021. The event was successful;
- The 2021 Annual Summer Concert Series (7 concerts this year) commenced on Tuesday, July 6, and concluded on August 17, 2021. The concert series was, as always, very successful;
- Recreational Special Olympics concluded its spring season on the Vanacore Field Track on June 27, 2021 (Sundays only);
- North Haven Track (Runners) (BOE) concluded its spring season on Vanacore Field Track on June 13, 2021;
- The North Haven Freshman / Middle School Baseball / Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded its spring play on Bailey Road Field on June 13, 2021;
- The North Haven Softball – (Varsity & Junior Varsity), Baseball (Varsity & Junior Varsity) and Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded its play on Brook Field and the Sports Complex (including DeMayo Field) on June 13, 2021;
- The North Haven Boys and Girls Tennis (BOE) concluded its spring season at the North Haven Sports Complex on June 13, 2021;
- The BOE High School Athletics concluded its spring season at the Middle School Turf Fields for its sporting events on June 13, 2021;
- The North Haven Soccer Club competed its spring soccer on the Memorial, Rock Road and Ridge Road fields on June 30, 2021 and its Summer Camps in late July and August 2021;
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse team concluded its play at the Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields on June 30 2021;
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse Camp concluded its camp on the Recreation Center Field on July 5 - 9, 2021. The Camp Program was successful;
- Glow Fitness provided FREE YOGA to residents and passersby on the Town Green on July 24, 2021 (Rain date July 25, 2021). The event was very successful;
- The North Haven Boys and Girls Club held its annual event on the Town Green on July 30, 2021;
- Adult Recreation Softball completed its summer softball at the Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields on August 4, 2021;

- Be Somebody Fitness offered FREE PILATES on the Town Green on August 5th and 12th, 2021;
- Board of Education (BOE) Cross Country commenced their Fall Season on August 26, 2021 at the Vanacore Track Complex;
- Board of Education (BOE) Volleyball commenced their Fall Season on August 26, 2021 at the Fred Kelly Gymnasium;
- Board of Education (BOE) Varsity Swimming commenced its Fall season on August 26, 2021 at the Walter Gawrych Community Pool;
- Board of Education (BOE) Football commenced their Fall season on the Middle School Practice Field on August 26, 2021;
- Board of Education (BOE) Field Hockey commenced their Fall season on August 26, 2021 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- Board of Education (BOE) Junior Varsity/Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer commenced their Fall season on August 26, 2021 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- The BOE Strength and Condition Camp completed its summer camp on the Vanacore Field Track on August 21, 2021;
- Sandy Mascia on behalf of Studio B Productions conducted a 1980's Musical Performance on the Town Green on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, following the end of the Summer Concert Series – it was successful and very well attended;
- The American Legion – Junior and Senior Leagues concluded its summer baseball at Bailey Road Field. Fields were utilized through late August 31, 2021;
- The North Haven Girls' Softball completed its softball program at Gateway Fields 2 – 7 on August 31, 2021;
- Max Sinoway Baseball completed their summer baseball at Montowese, Gateway, Green Acres, Clintonville School, Brook and Bailey Road fields on August 31, 2021;
- The Diamond Zone 120 Baseball concluded its baseball and softball programs at the Gateway, Grover Wyman Park, Bailey Road and Brook Fields on August 31, 2021;
- The Recreation Special Olympics concluded its programs on the Blakeslee Softball Field (Wednesdays only) on September 8, 2021;
- The Office of the First Selectman held a September 11th Tribute on the Town Green in Honor of the 20-Year Anniversary of the events surrounding September 11, 2001;

- The Pond Hill Baptist Church held its annual Family Movie Night on the Town Green on September 17, 2021. The event was well attended;
- Max Sinoway Baseball commenced with its Fall season on August 23, 2021 and will utilize Montowese Fields 1 – 4 through October 30, 2021;
- North Haven Fall Baseball - Diamond Zone, has commenced its Fall season on Bailey Road for practices and games starting on September 1, 2021, continuing through October 30, 2021.
- Youth Football commenced with their Fall Season on the Gateway Complex on August 1, 2021 and Sunday games on Vanacore Field through November 13, 2021;
- North Haven Soccer Club commenced with its Fall season on August 16, 2021 at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields and continue through November 30, 2021;
- The North Haven Fair was held at the North Haven Fairgrounds on September 9th – 12th, 2021. The Town’s Showmobile was transported to the Fairgrounds by Public Works’ Field Operations and utilized for the 4-Day Event;
- The Italian American Heritage Festival will be held on the Town Green on October 2, 2021 (Rain date October 3, 2021) in Celebration of Italian Heritage; and
- The Democratic Town Committee has reserved the Town Green for its Meeting of October 16, 2021 from 12 noon to 5 PM.

Construction 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.

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

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 and finished electrical this July, August and September, 2021.

The existing structure was demolished by Quality Associates in May, 2021.

The project is expected to conclude this Fall 2021, weather permitting. There is a resolution on tonight's (September 20, 2021) Annual Town Meeting for the naming of the newly constructed Concession/Athletic Facility to the "Anthony Longley Athletic Facility".

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) and the NO COST Labor as provided by the New Haven Building Trades Organization.

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 kick-off 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.

On March 25, 2021, the Department of Public Works received a final Scope of Work and cost estimate for Professional Engineering services from Weston and Sampson. On April 1, 2021, a Purchase Requisition was issued to Weston and Sampson so it may commence design and layouts as appropriate. Design work was completed by Weston and Sampson personnel.

The Town and Board of Education issued a Purchase Requisition to John Hollerbach with Creative Recreation on July 13, 2021 to construct the new playscape with ADA compliant accessibilities and components. Site work commenced in mid-August and continues. Unfortunately, due to COVID delays we continue to wait for playscape equipment deliveries - now estimated for early November 2021.

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

- May 31 to June 13 - Ken Tedeschi North Haven Band and Choir;
- June 28 to July 4th – Mason’s Lodge for Summer Concerts;
- July 5th to July 11th – St. John’s Church Summer Event;
- July 26th to August 1st – Mason’s Lodge for Summer Concerts;
- August 30th to September 5th – North Haven Fair;
- September 6th to September 12th – Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce;
- September 13th to September 19th – US Wealth Management Shred Event;
- September 27th to October 3rd – Italian American Heritage Festival;
- October 18th to October 24th – Rotary Night at the Pumpkin Patch;
- November 8th to November 14th – Senior to Senior Breakfast at NHHS;
- November 29th to December 12th – Senior to Senior Breakfast at NHHS; and
- December 6th to December 12th – Italian American Youth Foundation.

V. Old Business

Pickleball Courts

On January 13, 2021, the Recreation Department received correspondence from residents in North Haven regarding a request for the construction of pickleball courts in North Haven. These same residents were heard at the January 19, and March 15, 2021 Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration of the project.

North Haven Public Works and Recreation Departments have held several discussions with the Hinding Group regarding the construction of two Pickleball Courts at the South Avenue Carina Park in Town. Additional discussions with The Hinding Group were held to secure a cost proposal and timeframe for construction through the Sourcewell Bid Consortium. The Sourcewell Bid Consortium will allow the Town to ‘fast track’ the bid process while meeting all Town bid and procurement requirements.

A Purchase Requisition was issued to the Hinding Group by the Town on May 11, 2021. The Hinding Group completed the construction of two asphalt Pickleball courts, including nets, lining, fencing and associated gates on July 18, 2021. Residents and guests report the courts have been used on a daily basis since they opened.

VI. New Business

Joan Walsh asked about the status of the playground area behind the Recreation Center. Andy advised one of the playgrounds has been shut down because it is not safe and it is being addressed.

Bob Kowalewski brought to the attention of the Commission various field maintenance issues.

VII. Public Participation:

None

VIII. Adjournment:

Vice Chairman Montagna asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Bob Kowalewski, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

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