

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting November 21, 2022

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
Jennifer Klein, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Mary Lou Stamp made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 19, 2022 seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

None

IV. Director's Report

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

The director's report was presented by Lynn Sadosky in Andy's absence.

Our Special Olympians have participated in swimming, golf, softball, basketball, and bocce this past summer and fall. Basketball and swimming are still in session. Floor hockey will start in January. Swim practice is held on Tuesday evenings. On Saturday, October 15, we sent seven teams to the Floyd Little Athletic Center for the Divisioning Qualifier for basketball. The teams competed in the State Games November 19th & 20th held at Quinnipiac University.

North Haven Youth Basketball is offering an in-town league and travel basketball for Girls and Boys. Practice began the week of November 20th.

The online reservation system is still being used for public swim. The fall swim lessons were cancelled due to lack of instructors. Lessons will be offered in January.

It was a busy fall for the North Haven youth sports leagues. North Haven Soccer Club, North Haven Girls' Softball, North Haven Youth Football, North Haven Youth Lacrosse, Max Sinoway Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball. Baseball, softball and lacrosse seasons ended the first week of November. Soccer and football will end the last week of November.

The Recreation building is at full capacity most evenings for meetings and activities. We are offering coed open volleyball on Tuesday evenings 6:00 to 9:00pm and coed open basketball on Thursday evenings 6:00 to 9:00pm. Open pickleball will be offered during the day with dates and times to be determined.

CVS offered a Flu vaccination clinic at the Recreation building on October 12th.

North Haven High School Girl's Swimming is finishing up another successful campaign. North Haven High School Boy's coop swim team will start after Thanksgiving.

Trunk or Treat was held Saturday, October 29th at the High School parking lot. There were 150 cars registered for the event and over 300 children in attendance. The weather was beautiful. Special thanks to M&J Bus Company, NHHS National Honor Society, North Haven Knights of Columbus Council 373, Vox Church, Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Field Operations.

The Tree Lighting will be held Sunday December 4th from 4:00 to 5:00pm on the Green. Santa will help Mike Freda light the tree. The NHHS Choir will sing holiday carols. Refreshments will be provided by the Knights of Columbus and the Vox Church. The Corinthian Lodge #63 will offer the CT CHIP program to families.

Pilates, dance, parent & child enrichment classes, tennis, preschool prep, strength training & conditioning, children's cookie and cake decorating classes were offered this fall. The winter session will start in January.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling (September 19, 2022 to Present):

- Mark Gravino of East/West Productions held a Movie Night on the Town Green on September 24, 2022;
- The North Haven Garden Club hosted its Annual Scarecrow Contest on the Town Green from October 22, 2022 through November 5, 2022;
- Board of Education (BOE) Cross Country commenced their Fall Season on August 25, 2022;
- Board of Education (BOE) Volleyball commenced their Fall Season on August 25, 2022 at the Fred Kelly Gymnasium;

- Board of Education (BOE) Varsity Swimming commenced its Fall season on August 25, 2022 at the Walter Gawrych Community Pool;
- Board of Education (BOE) Football commenced their Fall season on the Middle School Practice Field on August 15, 2022;
- Board of Education (BOE) Field Hockey commenced their Fall season on August 25, 2022 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- Board of Education (BOE) Junior Varsity/Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer commenced their Fall season on August 25, 2022 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- North Haven Girls Softball concluded its Fall season on Gateway Fields 2 & 3 on October 30, 2022;
- Max Sinoway Baseball concluded its Fall season on Montowese Fields 1 – 4 on October 30, 2022;
- North Haven Fall Baseball - Diamond Zone concluded its Fall season on Bailey Road for practices and games on October 30, 2022;
- Youth Football commenced with their Fall Season on the Gateway Complex on August 1, 2022 and Sunday games on the Turf Field through November 30, 2022;
- North Haven Soccer Club concluded its Fall season at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields on November 20, 2022;
- On December 4, 2022, the Annual Tree Lighting will be held on the North Haven Town Green starting at 4 PM with lighting at 4 - 5 PM.

Old Business

Montowese Park Improvements, Quinnipiac Avenue

The Department of Public Works also met with personnel from Creative Recreation in West Hartford, currently on the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) approved Bid list for the purposes of procuring a new 'all-ages' playscape at Montowese Park. This playscape replaces the prior unit, which was removed in 2015 by the Department.

The playscape project (\$71,613) is funded entirely by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

It is estimated that the new playscape will arrive and be installed on or around the week of November 28, 2022 for use by the public and members/families of the Max Sinoway Baseball League.

Reconstruction of Vanacore Track and Field

Several kick-off meetings were held from June through September 2021 between the Town, Board of Education and engineering design professionals – Weston and Sampson Engineers to solicit design needs and associated complex improvements needed for the Vanacore Track and overall Complex. 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 November 30, 2022.

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.

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 December 2022 and start the interview and award process for a contractor in early Spring 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.

Submission of CT Communities Challenge Grant Applications

On September 28, 2022, the Department of Public Works submitted a Connecticut Communities Challenge grant application (Round 2) to the State’s Office of Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This grant application will focus on additional improvements to the proposed Middle and High School fields and athletic facilities, which are beyond the current Athletic Bonding Package presented to and approved by the residents on June 6, 2022.

It is estimated that the Town will receive award results between Mid December 2022 and January 2023.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (May 16 to the Present):

- May 23 to May 29th – North Haven Congregational Church Tag Sale;
- May 30th – June 12th – St. John’s Church Tag Sale;
- June 20th to June 26th – Mark Minotti – Music Center of North Haven;
- July 4th to July 10th – Pond Hill Baptist Church Movie Night;
- July 11th to July 17th – Historical Society Grand Opening of Cultural Center;
- July 25th to July 31st – Pond Hill Baptist Church Movie Night;
- August 1st to August 7th – Community Wellness Fair;
- August 8th to August 14th - Pond Hill Baptist Church Movie Night;
- August 15th to August 28th – North Haven Racquet Club Health Event;
- August 29th to September 4th – North Haven Fair;
- September 5th to September 11th – Rotary – Wine and Roses Event;
- September 12th to 18th – Shred Event US Wealth Management;
- September 19th to 25th – Rotary Wine and Roses Event;
- September 26th to October 2nd – Ridge Road Elementary School Shred Event;
- October 3rd to 16th – North Haven Garden Club Scarecrow contest;
- October 17 to 23rd – Annual Pumpkin Patch celebration for The Landing, Senior Housing;
- October 24th to 30th – Prescription Drug Take Back, Community Services;
- October 31st – November 6th – St. John’s Church Annual Fair;
- November 7th – 13th – Rotary Road Race;
- November 14th – 20th – Sacred Heart Jesus Day Care Center;
- November 21st December 4th – Senior Center Holiday Fair;
- December 5th – 11th – Sacred Heart Jesus Day Care; and
- December 12th – December 18th – Winter Wonderland, North Haven Magazine.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Appoint one member to Open Space Advisory Committee: Keith Macdowall made a motion to nominate Mary Lou Stamp as the representative for the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. All were in favor.

VII. Public Participation:

None

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Bob Kowalewski, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:56p.m.

In observation of Martin Luther King Day, the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will take place on ***Tuesday***, January 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.