

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting May 16, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Centone at 5:30pm.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Keith Macdowall, Frank Montagna,
Chris Pagan, Joan Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Bob Kowalewski, Mary Lou Stamp

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 21, 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 Annual Fishing Derby was Saturday, April 2, 2022 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Mr. DelVecchio reported there was an excellent turnout after the two-year hiatus. Trophies were given for the biggest fish, first caught and first to five. Dunkin Donuts provided munchkins and coffee. Hot dogs were provided by the Town. The public was thrilled to have the Derby back. He extended a special thank you to Dunking Donuts, Adelphia Café, DJ's Cards and Comics, Southern CT Tackle and the North Haven Firemen's Union for helping sponsor the event.

The annual Easter Eggstravaganza was Saturday April 9th, 2022 at the Recreation Center. Face painting, crafts for the children and pictures with the Easter Bunny were held in the gym. The rain held off long enough for the Easter egg hunt to be held on the field behind the Recreation building. In addition to the plastic eggs filled with chocolate gathered on the field, each child received a bag of chocolate eggs when leaving the event. Mr. DelVecchio reported there was a great turnout in spite of the fickle weather. Initially all the activities were to be outside but the weather dictated the pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting and the craft be indoors.

Summer registration began April 25th for both Day Camp and Playground programs. This summer sports camps for Lacrosse, Volleyball, Basketball & Tennis will be offered.

Interviews were conducted for summer camp counselor positions. Summer staff orientation will be held Wednesday June 1st 3:00 – 6:00pm. Day Camp and Playgrounds will run June 27th to August 5th.

Pool hours are changing as of June 27th for the summer.

Pool and Recreation Center maintenance has been scheduled. The pool will be closed August 8th – 21st. The Recreation Center will be closed for programs and meetings August 22nd – September 5th. The gym floor will be refinished on September 1st and 2nd.

Adult Softball started on April 20th with 8 teams.

Music Under the Stars will begin on Tuesday, May 31st and run through August 30th. Food vendors and Classic cars will be back.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling:

- 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 through August 19, 2022;
- The North Haven Freshman / Middle Baseball / Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) has been scheduled for Bailey Road field through June 12, 2022;
- 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) through June 12, 2022;
- The North Haven Boys and Girls Tennis (BOE) has been scheduled for the North Haven Sports Complex through June 12, 2022;
- The BOE High School Athletics continues to schedule the East and West Turf Fields for its sporting events through June 11, 2022;
- The Annual Max Sinoway Baseball Opening Day was held on April 30, 2022 and was well attended – there was perfect weather for the event;
- 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 through August 31, 2022;

- The North Haven Soccer Club has been scheduled for Memorial, Rock Road and Ridge Road fields. Fields are needed through June 30, 2022 (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 through July 31, 2022;
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse has been scheduled for the Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields. Fields are needed through June 30, 2022;
- The Diamond Zone 120 Baseball has been scheduled for Grover Wyman Park through August 31, 2022;
- Adult Recreation Softball at the Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields. Fields are needed through August 3, 2022;
- The Annual May Market for the North Haven Garden Club was held at the Recreation Center on Saturday, May 7, 2022. The event was successful despite the rains;
- The 2022 Annual Summer Concert Series (14 concerts this year) is scheduled to start Tuesday, May 31, 2022 and continue each Tuesday evening through August 30, 2022 on the Town Green;
- The first of two Annual Toy Drives for the Sons and Daughters of Italy is scheduled on the Town Green for May 21, 2022 from 10 AM to 1 PM;
- The North Haven Memorial Day Parade will be held along the Town Green on May 28, 2022 with a Rain Date of June 4, 2022;
- Glow Fitness has scheduled a free fitness event on the Town Green for June 5, 2022, with a Rain Date of June 12, 2022;
- The Elks Club has scheduled a Flag Day event on the Town Green for June 10, 2022, with a Rain Date of June 17, 2022. The event is scheduled to begin at 6 P.M.;
- St. Theresa's Church Carnival has reserved the Town's Showmobile for use at its annual Carnival for June 23, and 24, 2022;
- Minotti Music Center has scheduled their annual music event on the Town Green for June 25, 2022 with a Rain Date of July 2, 2022. The event is scheduled from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.;
- The second of two Annual Toy Drives for the Sons and Daughters of Italy is scheduled on the Town Green for July 16, 2022 from 10 AM to 1 PM;

- The Recreation Special Olympics for Blakeslee softball field (Mondays only) will be held from July 11, 2022 through September 7, 2022; and
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse Camp will be held for one week on the Recreation Center field during July 11 - 22, 2022.

Old Business

Submission of CT Communities Challenge Grant Applications

On January 11, 2022, the Department of Public Works submitted two Connecticut Communities Challenge grant applications to the State's Office of Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). These grant applications focus on improvements to the Town's Central Block (defined as Church Street, Linsley Street, Elm Street and Broadway) and improvements proposed for the Middle and High School fields and athletic facilities. A brief description follows for both applications.

Central Block Refurbishments Grant

This \$2.8 M project will include refurbishments to parking areas, walkways, pool and library roofing, playscape replacements, existing infrastructure and curbing for the Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Mildred A. Wakeley Recreation Center, Walter Gawrych Pool, Memorial Town Library and the Cultural Center. A new bandstand is also proposed for the Town Green. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 50% match – which will be provided through previously allocated funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It is expected that grant awards will be made by the State's Office of the DECD sometime in March/April 2022.

Refurbishment of (Middle and High School) Athletic Facilities Grant

This \$4 M project will include refurbishments to the Middle and High School athletic facilities, including the Bailey Road Baseball Field, Turf Fields (ADA compliant bleachers), Junior Varsity and Varsity baseball and softball fields, and fields at the DeMayo Complex. LED lighting and new green energy scoreboards are also included in the project. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 50% match – which may be provided through a future Capital Bonding Package (approved by the residents) or dollars allocated through the FY 23 Capital Budget. It is expected that grant awards will be made by the State's Office of the DECD sometime in March/April 2022.

On April 6, the DECD issued their decision letters for Round one (1) of the CT Communities Challenge Grant program. Unfortunately, the Town of North Haven was not awarded either of the grants, due to The Town of North Haven not being a distressed municipality. However, the Department of Public Works is planning on reevaluating the grants and resubmitting both of them for Round two (2) of the CT Communities Challenge Grant program.

Design and Reconstruction of Vanacore Track and Complex

Several kick-off meetings were held from June 16, 2021 through September 14, 2021 between the Town, Board of Education and engineering design professionals – Weston and Sampson to solicit design needs and associated complex improvements needed for the Vanacore Track and overall Complex.

On September 13, 2021, the Department of Public Works received a final Scope of Work and cost estimate for Professional Engineering services. On September 28, 2021, a Purchase Requisition was issued to Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. so it could commence with land survey, soil boring tests, design and layouts as appropriate. 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 \$1.9 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 at 10 A.M. via ZOOM Conference. DeRita and Sons Construction Company is the apparent low bidder and the Town is currently reviewing the Bids and Professional References prior to any formal award for the work. The total cost of the project will be \$1,915,000. Construction on the Vanacore Track and Complex will begin prior to June 1, 2022.

Montowese Park Improvements, Quinnipiac Avenue

The Department of Public Works met with personnel from Game Time Sports of Madison, currently on the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) approved Bid list for the purposes of procuring six (6) five-row aluminum ADA compliant set of bleachers for the baseball fields Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in Montowese Park.

The bleacher project (\$41,370) will be funded entirely by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

It is estimated that the aluminum bleachers will arrive and be installed on or before May 30, 2022 for use by the Max Sinoway Baseball League.

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 in Montowese Park. This playscape replaces the prior unit, which was removed in 2015 by the Department.

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

It is estimated that the new playscape will arrive and be installed on or before September 15, 2022 for use by the public and members/families of the Max Sinoway Baseball League.

Memorial Field Improvements, Broadway

The Department of Public Works met with personnel from Game Time Sports of Madison, currently on the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) approved Bid list for the purposes of procuring two aluminum players benches (installed) and one five-row aluminum ADA compliant set of bleachers for the Memorial Fields on Broadway.

The project (\$12,500) was funded entirely by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

The player's benches and one set of aluminum bleachers were installed in April 2022 and initial reports from the North Haven Soccer Club and North Haven Lacrosse Club are extremely positive.

New Business

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 M 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." The resolution for the Call for the Special Town Meeting dated June 6, 2022 at 7 PM at the North Haven High School to hear the \$3.5M appropriation and bond authorization was also made and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Park Improvements - Canna Park

The Department of Public Works issued a Purchase Requisition to Hinding Tennis, LLC. (for a "not to exceed" value of \$70,750.) for improvements to Canna Park located on Carina Road and South Avenue. These improvements include the addition of two more pickleball courts that will be installed adjacent to the current pickleball courts along with the installation of new asphalt sidewalks (approximately 500 lineal feet). Hinding Tennis, LLC. is based out of West Haven and was responsible for the construction of the first two Pickleball Courts installed in 2021.

The addition of another set of two pickleball courts was in response to the overwhelmingly high demand for pickleball play from the residents of North Haven and nearby Towns.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (Calendar Year 2022):

- January 3rd to January 9th – Sacred Heart Jesus School – Daycare;
- January 24th to January 30th – Sacred Heart Jesus School;
- February 21st to March 6th - North Haven High School – Mama Mia Production;
- March 14th to March 20th – Shredding Event North Haven Land Trust;
- March 21st to March 27th – Shredding Event for Ridge Road Elementary School;

- March 28th to May 1st – North Haven Child Abuse Prevention Month & Prescription Drug Take Back;
- May 2nd to May 8th – Annual May Market – North Haven Garden Club;
- May 30th – June 12th – St. John’s Church Tag Sale;
- June 13th to June 26th – Mark Minotti – Music Center of North Haven;
- September 12th to 18th – Shred Event US Wealth Management;
- October 3rd to 9th – Foundation for Orphans.

V. Old Business

Request from the Foundation 4 Orphans to host event on the Town Green:

Rev. Wayne Lavender from the Foundation 4 Orphans was present to address questions from the Commission regarding the request to host a fundraising concert on the Town Green on October 8, 2022 with a rain date of October 9, 2022. Following a discussion among the Commission, Keith Macdowall made a motion to accept the request, seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor.

VI. New Business

Meeting Dates: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Dates through November 2023 were distributed. Keith Macdowall made a motion to accept the meeting dates seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor.

VII. Public Participation:

None

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Frank Montagna, seconded by Chris Pagan. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 5:30pm.