

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting September 19, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:33pm.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Bob Kowalewski, Frank Montagna, Mary Lou Stamp, Joan Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Al Centone, Keith Macdowall, Chris Pagan

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Joan Walsh made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 16, 2022, seconded by Frank Montagna. 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 27th through August 5th. The playground programs were located at Ridge Road and Montowese Schools. The Day Camp was held at the Recreation Center. Enrollment was up at the Day Camp and Montowese sites. It was overall a successful summer. The longer day for the Day camp was a hit with the parents.

The "Music Under the Stars" concert series ran May 31st to August 30th. There was an outstanding lineup of performers for the 14 concerts this year. Next year one more show will be added. The 15th show will probably be the Tuesday after Labor Day. There was a great turnout at every show. Two concerts were moved indoors to the High School. There was a full house at both shows. One show was cut short and another cancelled because of inclement weather. Positive feedback was received from the public about this year's lineup. Andy extended a special thanks to Police, Fire, Field Operations and the CERT Team for their assistance at each concert.

Swim lessons were offered this summer. Most classes had a waiting list. Unfortunately, there are not enough instructors to offer lessons for the Fall session.

Adult softball ran from April 20th to August 3rd.

The pool was closed August 8th – 21st. The pool was drained and cleaned. Tiles were replaced on the pool floor. One drain box was repaired. The float valve was repaired. The air handler was repaired. Options to repair or replace the pool roof are being explored.

The Recreation Building gym floor was refinished.

Fall pool hours are now in effect.

Registration is underway for Fall recreation programs. Many programs were scheduled to start the week of September 12th.

The Track lights will probably not be on this Fall due to the renovations to the Track area.

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

Saturday, September 24, 2022 The Town will be hosting a movie night on the Green. The movie will be “Back to the Future.” It will start 7:00pm. There will be food vendors on the Green. JRoos, The Masons, and Joes Ice Cream will be ready to serve starting at 6:00pm. The Recreation Department will sell popcorn.

The Trunk or Treat event will be held at the North Haven High School parking lot on Saturday, October 29th, 2022 from 4:00 – 5:00pm. This event is coordinated with Board of Education, Public Works, Police, Fire, Cert Team, and the Knights of Columbus.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling (May 16, 2022 to Present):

- The American Legion – Junior and Senior Leagues concluded their season at the North Haven Sports Complex (DeMayo Field) and Bailey Road field on August 19, 2022;
- The North Haven Freshman / Middle School Baseball / Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded their season at Bailey Road field on June 12, 2022;
- The North Haven Softball – (Varsity & Junior varsity), Baseball (Varsity & Junior Varsity) and Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded their seasons at Brook Field and the Sports Complex (including DeMayo Field) on June 12, 2022;
- The North Haven Boys and Girls Tennis (BOE) concluded their season at the North Haven Sports Complex on June 12, 2022;
- The BOE High School Athletics concluded its use of the East and West Turf Fields on June 11, 2022;

- The Max Sinoway Baseball concluded its play at Montowese, Gateway, Green Acres, Clintonville School, Brook and Bailey Road fields on August 31, 2022;
- The North Haven Soccer Club concluded its season at Memorial, Rock Road and Ridge Road fields on June 30, 2022 (and used the fields again in July and August for Summer Soccer Camps);
- The North Haven Girls' Softball concluded its season at Gateway Fields 2 – 7 on July 31, 2022;
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse concluded its season at Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields on June 30, 2022;
- Diamond Zone 120 Baseball concluded its season at Grover Wyman Park on August 31, 2022;
- Adult Recreation Softball concluded its season at Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields on August 3, 2022;
- The 2022 Annual Summer Concert Series (14 concerts this year) scheduled from Tuesday, May 31, through August 30, 2022 on the Town Green was very successful and well attended;
- The first of two Annual Toy Drives for the Sons and Daughters of Italy was held on the Town Green for May 21, 2022 from 10 AM to 1 PM (very successful);
- The North Haven Memorial Day Parade was held along the Town Green on May 28, 2022;
- The Agency on Aging held their annual 'employee picnic' on the Town Green on June 1, 2022 in honor of those employees who assisted with their mission;
- Glow Fitness has scheduled a free fitness event on the Town Green for June 5, 2022;
- The Elks Club held a Flag Day event on the Town Green on June 10, 2022. The event began at 6 P.M.;
- Minotti Music Center held their annual music event on the Town Green on June 25, 2022. The event was held from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.;
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse Camp was held for one week on the Recreation Center field during July 11 - 22, 2022;
- The Agency on Aging held a second annual 'volunteer picnic' at the Grover Wyman Park on July 15, 2022 in honor of those volunteers who assisted with their mission;

- The Pond Hill Baptist Church held their summer Movie Nights on the Town Green on July 15, 2022 and again on July 29, 2022;
- The second of two Annual Toy Drives for the Sons and Daughters of Italy was held on the Town Green on July 16, 2022 from 10 AM to 1 PM;
- The Recreation Special Olympics reserved Blakeslee softball field (Mondays only) from July 11, 2022 through September 7, 2022;
- The Pond Hill Baptist Church held their summer Movie Nights on the Town Green on August 12, 2022 and again on August 26, 2022;
- Mark Gravino of East/West Productions will be hosting their Movie Night on the Town Green on September 24, 2022;
- The North Haven Garden Club will be hosting its Annual Scarecrow Contest on the Town Green from October 22, 2022 through November 5, 2022;
- North Haven Girls Softball commenced with its Fall season on August 27, 2022 and will utilize Gateway Fields 2 & 3 through October 30, 2022;
- Max Sinoway Baseball commenced with its Fall season on August 27, 2022 and will utilize Montowese Fields 1 – 4 through 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 commenced with its Fall season on August 8, 2022 at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields and continue through November 20, 2022; and
- The North Haven Fair was held at the North Haven Fairgrounds on September 8th – 11th, 2022. The Town's Showmobile was transported to the Fairgrounds by Public Works' Field Operations and utilized for the 4-Day Event.

Old Business

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 eight (8) five-row aluminum ADA compliant set of bleachers for the baseball fields Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Montowese Park.

The bleacher project (\$55,160) was funded entirely by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

The aluminum bleachers were installed in May and July, 2022 for use by the Max Sinoway Baseball League, its spectators and the public.

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 the first week of November, 2022 for use by the public and members/families of the Max Sinoway Baseball League.

Park Improvements - Canna Park

The Town of North Haven issued a Purchase Requisition to Hinding Tennis, LLC. (for a "not to exceed" value of \$82,845.) for improvements to Canna Park located on Carina Road and South Avenue. These improvements include the addition of two more pickleball courts (for a total of four courts) that will be installed adjacent to the current pickleball courts along with the installation of new asphalt sidewalks (approximately 650 lineal feet) and signage for the courts. Hinding Tennis, LLC. is based out of West Haven and was responsible for the construction of the first two Pickleball Courts installed in 2021. This project was fully funded through LoCIP (State of CT grant for Capital Improvements).

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. This work was completed in August, 2022.

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 \$2.4 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 was awarded the contract work. The total cost of the project will be \$2,400,000. Construction on the Vanacore Track and Field started on June 4, 2022 and will

conclude on or before October 14, 2022.

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.

New Business

Submission 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 \$250,000. 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 grant awards will be announced sometime between September 15 and October 1, 2022.

Submission of Transit Oriented development Grant (TOD)

On August 1, 2022, the Department of Public Works prepared and submitted a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Application on behalf of the Town to the State of Connecticut’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for consideration of a \$2.4 M project.

This project will include refurbishments to parking areas, walkways, library roofing, 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 among other areas. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 20% match.

It is expected that grant awards will be made by OPM sometime before October 15, 2022.

Submission of CT Communities Challenge Grant Applications

On September 23, 2022, the Department of Public Works will submit 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 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.

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 21st - December 4th – Senior Center Holiday Fair; and
- December 12th – December 18th – Winter Wonderland, North Haven Magazine.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Public Participation:

None

VIII. Adjournment:

Vice Chair Mary Lou Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Frank Montagna, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 5:30pm.