

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting January 17, 2023

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

I. Attendance

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

Commissioners Absent: Keith Macdowall

Staff Present: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Jennifer Klein, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 21, 2022, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence

Lynn Sadosky received a request from Sue Ann D'adamo to put a "Little Free Library" at the entrance of Grover Wyman Park on Blakeslee Avenue. The Commission agreed to recommend allowing the installation of the "Little Free Library", however, if there are any issues in the future they would recommend removing it. Mary Lou Stamp made a motion to recommend the approval of the request on a probationary period, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor.

IV. Director's Report

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

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

Field and Parks Scheduling:

- Board of Education (BOE) Cross Country completed their Fall Season on November 1, 2022.
- Board of Education (BOE) Volleyball completed their Fall Season on November 8, 2022, at the Fred Kelly Gymnasium.
- Board of Education (BOE) Varsity Swimming completed its Fall season on November 18, 2022, at the Walter Gawrych Community Pool.
- Board of Education (BOE) Football concluded their Fall season on the Middle School Practice Field on December 9, 2022.

- Board of Education (BOE) Field Hockey concluded their Fall season on October 24, 2022, at the Middle School Turf Fields.
- Board of Education (BOE) Junior Varsity/Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer concluded their Fall season on November 8, 2022, at the Middle School Turf Fields.
- Youth Football concluded its Fall Season on the Gateway Complex and the Turf Field on November 30, 2022.
- On December 4, 2022, the Annual Tree Lighting was held on the North Haven Town Green at 4 PM. with the tree lighting at 5 PM.

Old Business

Montowese Park Improvements, Quinnipiac Avenue

The Department of Public Works 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) was funded entirely by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

The new playscape was installed on December 8, 2022, for use by members/families of the Max Sinoway Baseball League and the public.

Reconstruction of Vanacore Track and Field

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 July 7, 2023.

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 January 2023 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.

The Town was notified on December 20, 2022, that it was NOT awarded the grant. However, the Town was also notified that a third round of funding under the program would be announced during the Spring of 2023.

New Business

Bailey Road Baseball Field Improvements

On December 8, 2022, State Senator Paul Cicarella and State Representative David Yaccarino announced that the State's Bonding Commission approved of a \$250,000 grant for the Town of North Haven to finance Town Park and field improvements at its Bailey Road baseball field. This grant has been awarded through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

Once the Contract Agreement and associated paperwork is received from the State, the Department of Public Works will work with a professional consultant to develop Construction Documents and Bid Specifications for the proposed work.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (November 21st to the Present):

- November 21st December 4th – Senior Center Holiday Fair
- December 5th – 11th – Sacred Heart Jesus Day Care
- December 12th – December 18th – Winter Wonderland, North Haven Magazine
- February 20th – March 5th, 2023 – North Haven High School Musical
- March 6th – April 2nd – Child Abuse Prevention Month (Community Services)
- April 3rd – 9th – North Haven Land Trust Shred Event
- April 17th – 30th – Earth Day Event – Conservation Commission North Haven
- May 8th – May 14th – North Haven Garden Club – May Market
- August 28th – September 10th – U.S. Wealth Management Shred Event
- September 11th – October 1st Quinnipiac Chamber Event

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday December 4th. Hundreds of residents enjoyed the refreshments provided by the Father Donaher K of C and the VOX Church. The North Haven High School Choir performed holiday songs. The Corinthian Lodge #63 provided the CT CHIP program to families. The tree was lit by Santa and his helpers.

Andy thanked the Recreation Department staff, the North Haven Police, Fire and Field Operations, the CERT Team, Father Donaher K of C, Vox Church, Corinthian Lodge #63, and the North Haven High School Choir. The Tree Lighting would not be possible without their contributions.

The first annual Lighting of the Menorah on the Town Green was Monday, December 19th. Rabbi Moshe Hecht of Chabad of Hamden coordinated the event. They provided hot latkes, donuts, and refreshments. A chocolate coin gelt drop was done from the top of the North Haven Fire Department ladder truck.

Winter recreation and pool programs are in session. Swimming lessons are being offered. New programs: Walking in the gym Monday, Wednesday and Friday, January 4 – March 31, 10:00am – 12:00pm no charge. Pickleball in the gym Monday, Wednesday and Friday, January 4 – March 31, 12:30 – 3:30pm \$5.00 fee.

North Haven High School coop Swim team is in session.

Summer employment applications are currently being accepted.

The Easter Eggstravaganza event is scheduled for Saturday April 1st, 2023. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the public and take selfies. There will be an Easter egg hunt and crafts.

The Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday April 15th, 2023. 6:15am check in. Fishing from 7:00 – 8:30am. Hot dogs, munchkins, and refreshments will be provided. Trophies will be awarded for the first fish caught, first to catch 5 fish, and largest fish caught. Each participant receives a ticket for the raffle.

The adult softball league is scheduled to begin Wednesday April 12th. Registration begins the first week of March.

Summer concerts will run May 30th through September 5th. This summer 15 concerts will be offered. All 15 dates have been filled. Summer playground camp, day camp and sport camps will be offered. Playground and day camp will run June 26th through August 4th.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Public Participation

None

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Mary Lou Stamp, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30pm.