

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting September 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Centone at 5:31pm.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Keith Macdowall,
Chris Pagan, Joan Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Frank Montagna, Mary Lou Stamp

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Joan Walsh made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 15, 2023 seconded by Chris Pagan. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

Letter received from Ron Penton requesting the Commission to consider adjusting the daily fee for non-resident grandchildren to use the town pool. Following a brief discussion, the Commission concluded that this request should be presented to the Finance Department for review. Andy stated that he will forward the request to the Finance Department.

IV. Director's Report

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

Summer Day Camp and Playground camp ran June 26th through August 4th. The playground program was held at Montowese School with 197 participants enrolled. Daily enrollment averaged 110 participants. The Day Camp was held at the Recreation Center. Weekly enrollment averaged 44 participants. Enrollment was up from the previous two summers.

The "Music Under the Stars" concert series ran May 30th to September 5th. There was an outstanding lineup of performers for the 15 concerts this year. Next year one more show will be added. There were large turnouts at every show. The weather was temperamental at best. One show was 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 CERT Team for their assistance at each concert.

Swim lessons were in demand this summer. Most classes had a waiting list. Our Pool Director, Kate Miekle, was still able to offer swim lessons to 188 participants for weekday lessons and 56 participants for Saturdays for a total of 244. This was accomplished with a limited number of instructors.

Only six teams registered for adult softball. It was the lowest number in years.

The pool was closed August 7 - 20. The pool was drained and cleaned. Tiles were replaced on the pool floor. A new dry chemical feeder system was installed to replace the liquid feeder system. Problems with the quality of the liquid chlorine prompted the switch. It is a state-of-the-art computerized system that can be monitored online. It adds chlorine and PH minus as needed to maintain the appropriate levels. It will be more cost effective. The pool roof will be replaced moving forward.

The Recreation Building gym floor did not need to be refinished this year.

Handicap accessible doors will be installed in the front of the recreation building and the entrance to the pool foyer.

Fall recreation programs have begun.

The Track lights will be on Monday Through Thursday until December 21, weather permitting.

North Haven High School Girls swim team began their season on August 24th. The team uses the pool Monday – Friday 2:00 - 5:00pm.

The Trunk or Treat event will be held at the North Haven High School parking lot on Saturday, October 28th, 2023, from 3:45 – 5:00pm. This event is coordinated with Board of Education, Public Works, Police, Fire, Cert Team, and the Knights of Columbus.

The annual Tree lighting on the Green will be Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling (May 15, 2023, to Present):

- The North Haven Memorial Day Parade was held along the Town Green on May 27, 2023.
- The 2023 Annual Summer Concert Series (15 concerts this year) scheduled from Tuesday, May 30, 2023, and continued each Tuesday through September 5, 2023, on the Town Green was very successful and well attended.

- The Agency on Aging held their annual 'employee picnic' on the Town Green on June 1, 2023, in honor of those employees who assisted with their mission.
- Recreation Special Olympics concluded its season on Vanacore Field Track on June 4, 2023 (Sundays Only).
- The Elks Club organization held its annual Flag Day event on the Town Green on June 9, 2023. The event began at 5 PM. and concluded at 7:30 PM.
- North Haven Track (Runners) (BOE) concluded its season on Vanacore Field Track on June 9, 2023.
- The North Haven Freshman / Middle School Baseball / Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded their season at Bailey Road Baseball field on June 9, 2023.
- The North Haven Softball – (Varsity & Junior varsity), Baseball (Varsity & Junior Varsity) and Junior Varsity Lacrosse (BOE) concluded their season at Brook Field and the Sports Complex (including DeMayo Field) on June 9, 2023.
- The North Haven Boys and Girls Tennis (BOE) concluded their season at the North Haven Sports Complex on June 9, 2023.
- The BOE High School Athletics concluded its use of the East and West Turf Fields on June 9, 2023.
- North Haven First Annual Pride Day Event was held on the Town Green on June 17, 2023, from 10 AM to 2 PM. The event was well attended and successful.
- St. Theresa's Church Carnival had reserved the Showmobile for use at its annual Carnival for June 23, 24, and 25, 2023.
- The North Haven Youth Lacrosse concluded its season at Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields on June 31, 2023.
- The Pond Hill Baptist Church held their annual summer Movie Nights on the Town Green on July 7, 2023, and again on August 4, 2023.
- The Animal Haven Anniversary Celebration was held on the Town Green on July 15, 2023, from 1 to 5 PM.
- The Annual Toy Drive for the Sons and Daughters of Italy was held on the Town Green on July 22, 2023, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

- The North Haven Girls' Softball concluded its season at Gateway Fields 2 – 7 on July 31, 2023.
- Adult Recreation Softball concluded its season at Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields on August 2, 2023.
- The BOE Strength and Condition Camp on the Vanacore Field Track was held from June 26, 2023, through August 9, 2023.
- The American Legion – Junior and Senior Leagues concluded their season at the North Haven Sports Complex (DeMayo Field) and Bailey Road Baseball field on August 31, 2023.
- The Max Sinoway Baseball concluded its play at Montowese, Gateway, Green Acres, Clintonville School, Brook, and Bailey Road fields on August 31, 2023.
- The North Haven Soccer Club concluded its season at Memorial, Rock Road, and Ridge Road fields. Fields on June 30, 2023 (and used the fields again in July and August for Summer Soccer Camps).
- Diamond Zone 120 Baseball concluded its summer season at Grover Wyman Park on August 31, 2023.
- The North Haven Fair was held at the North Haven Fairgrounds on September 7th – 10th, 2023. The Town's Showmobile was transported to the Fairgrounds by Public Works' Field Operations and utilized for the 4-Day Event.
- The Recreation Special Olympics concluded their season on Blakeslee softball field (Mondays only) on September 11, 2023.
- The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce Business Expo will be held on the Town Green on September 23, 2023 (there is no rain date for the event).
- The North Haven Garden Club will be hosting its Annual Scarecrow Contest on the Town Green from October 17, 2023, through November 4, 2023.
- North Haven Girls Softball commenced with its Fall season on August 9, 2023, and will utilize Gateway Fields 2 & 3 through October 29, 2023.
- Max Sinoway Baseball commenced with its Fall season on August 9, 2023, and will utilize Montowese Fields 1 – 4 through October 29, 2023.

- Youth Football commenced with their Fall Season on the Gateway Complex on August 1, 2023, and Sunday games on the Turf Field through November 19, 2023.
- North Haven Soccer Club commenced its Fall season on August 14, 2023, at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields and continues through November 12, 2023.
- Diamond Zone 120 Baseball commenced its Fall season at Gateway Park on September 1, 2023, through October 29, 2023.

Old Business

Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant – Playscapes and Bandstand

On July 15, 2022, the Department of Public Works submitted a Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application for the 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 is \$351,563. The State's Office of Policy Management (OPM) awarded the grant on September 15, 2022.

Local approvals were secured from the Planning and Zoning Commission on January 9, 2023, the Board of Selectmen on February 2, 2023, and at a Special Town Meeting on February 27, 2023.

On May 4, 2023, the Town entered a Design Build Contract with Creative Recreation, LLC. for the construction of two replacement playscapes and a new bandstand.

Discussions with Creative Recreation indicated that the bandstand materials will be received by September 24th and work on construction of the concrete pad will start then and conclude between 4 and 6 weeks thereafter (on/by November 15th). It is also estimated that the two playscapes will arrive on/before November 15, 2023, and will be constructed over a 2 to 3-week period thereafter (on/by December 8th).

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.

Weston and Sampson Engineers have completed the design of the proposed improvements and approvals have been secured on April 29, 2023, from the Town's Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) and as of May 8, 2023, from the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Bids were advertised via the Town's website on June 5, 2023. A mandatory site walk for all interested Bidders was held on June 13, 2023. The Bid opening date was June 27, 2023. One Bid was received at a total fee of \$1M greater than the project's budget. The Bid was REJECTED.

The Bid Specifications and Plans were revised, and the documents were again advertised via the Town's website. A mandatory site walk for all interested Bidders was held on July 18, 2023. The Bid opening date was August 3, 2023. The revised Bid Specifications and Plans were AWARDED to the apparent low bidder – DeRita and Sons Construction Company in Middletown, who started work on September 11, 2023.

DeRita and Sons Construction Company has until September 11, 2024, to complete the Scope of Work for the project.

Urban Act Grant - 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 Urban Act Grant for the Town of North Haven to finance the field improvements at its Bailey Road Baseball Field. This grant has been awarded through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP).

The executed Urban Act Grant Contract Agreement and associated paperwork was received from the CT DEEP on March 14, 2023. The Town entered into a consultant contract with Weston and Sampson Engineers for the project, including the Construction Design, Plans and Bid Specifications. Land Surveying efforts are currently being undertaken at the Bailey Road Baseball Field.

Bids were advertised via the Town's website and a mandatory site walk for all interested Bidders was held on August 15, 2023. The Bid opening date was August 29, 2023. Four (4) Bids were received with the apparent low bidder submitting a TOTAL FEE greater than \$50,000 over the project's available budget. The Bids, as a result, were ALL REJECTED.

Per the Board of Education – and given that DeMayo Baseball Field will be taken out of service on October 1, 2023, for reconstruction and not restored for play until the Spring of 2024, the Bailey Road Baseball Field MUST remain in service and cannot be reconstructed until AFTER the Spring of 2024, when the DeMayo Baseball Field construction concludes.

The Town of North Haven plans to rebid the Project for the Bailey Road Baseball Field in late Spring of 2024.

New Business

Capital Bonding package – Miscellaneous Projects

The Board of Selectman met on September 7, 2023, and approved several resolutions that recommended a NET \$5.8 million appropriation and bond authorization for various Capital improvements, including: (1) relocation of some containers for the Recycling Center; (2) WPCA Improvements for Inflow & Infiltration; (3) Road Improvement Projects/Drainage (grant matches for Pool Road, Kings Highway, Hartford Turnpike, and Milling/Paving 2023-2024); (4) grant match for the Five Mile River Brook Dredging work; (5) Sports and Recreation (grant matches for Playscapes, Bandstand, lighting for Brozek and DeMayo fields); (6) grant for Temple Pines Senior Housing Grants; and (7) Town Buildings (ARPA grant for Senior Center Van and improvements, STEAP grant match for Fire Training Apparatus Garage, Library Lighting, Library Roof and grant match for State Library Grant improvements, Walter Gawrych Pool Roof, Town Hall Improvements, BH Care Office Modifications).

The bond authorization for such Capital Improvements will be heard September 18th at 7 PM at the North Haven High School auditorium for a public vote at the Annual Town Meeting.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (May 15 to the Present):

- May 29th – June 18th – Pride Day Event, Town Green
- June 19th – June 25th – Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare
- June 26th – July 2nd – Pond Hill Baptist Church – Movie Night
- July 3rd – 16th – Animal Haven Anniversary Celebration
- July 17th – July 23rd - Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare
- July 31st – August 6th - Pond Hill Baptist Church – Movie Night
- August 7th – 13th - Sacred Heart of Jesus Daycare
- August 14th – 27th – North Haven Fairgrounds
- August 28th – September 10th – U.S. Wealth Management Shred Event
- September 11th –24th – First Annual Quinnipiac Chamber Event
- September 25th – October 1st – Clean Energy Task Force
- October 2nd – 8th – North Haven Magazine – Town Trek
- October 9th – 15th – North Haven Garden Club – Scarecrow Contest
- October 16th – 22nd – North Haven Congregational Church, Harvest Fair
- October 23rd – 29th – Annual Prescription Drug Take Back Event
- October 30th – November 5th – Annual Senior Center Holiday Fair
- November 6th – 12th – St. John’s Church – Christmas Bazaar
- November 20th – 26th - Pond Hill Baptist Church – Holiday Celebration
- November 27th December 10th – North Haven Magazine – Invasion of the Elves, Elf A Con
- December 11th – 17th - Pond Hill Baptist Church – Holiday Celebration

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Public Participation:

Michael Stringer of Peter's Rock Association advised the Commission the bike path at Peter's Rock was taken down and all the features were removed. He stated they are having a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 15th. He also advised that they are looking for groups to volunteer to help at Peter's Rock with things such as cleaning up trash and pulling weeds.

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Bob Kowalewski, seconded by Keith Macdowall. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

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