

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting January 17, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:33p.m. NHTV was present to record meeting. Brief introductions were made by all for the benefit of the television viewing audience.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Joe Capucci, Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna,
Michael Pomichter, Susan Puzycki, Mary Lou Stamp.

Commissioners Absent: Al Centone.

Staff Present: Michael J. Freda, First Selectman
Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

II. Election of Officers:

First Selectman Michael Freda was present to address three orders of business: entertaining nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Frank Montagna made a motion to nominate Mary Lou Stamp as Chairman, seconded by Michael Pomichter and Joe Capucci. Mary Lou Stamp made a motion to nominate Frank Montagna as Vice Chairman, seconded by Suzanne Lewis. Mary Lou Stamp made a motion to nominate Al Centone as Secretary, seconded by Susan Puzycki. All were in favor of each nomination.

First Selectman Freda also entertained nominations from the Commission for a member to sit on the Open Space Advisory Committee. Suzanne Lewis made a motion to nominate current seat holder Mary Lou Stamp once again to the Open Space Advisory Committee, seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor.

I. Acceptance of Minutes:

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 21, 2011, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor.

III. Correspondence:

Mary Lou Stamp received a call from Marilyn O'Donnell, Paws in the Park, asking whether the Parks and Recreation Commission had any funds available to assist with their ongoing initiative. Ms. Stamp explained to Mrs. O'Donnell that a set amount exists in Recreation's budget which is designated for sports leagues subsidy requests, but would look further into whether Parks or Recreation have anything in their budget. Ms. Sadosky indicated that Mrs. O'Donnell met with Public Works and she had already explained to Mrs. O'Donnell that she was not aware of any such funding. Mrs. Stamp indicated that she will follow up with Mrs. O'Donnell that she received confirmation that there are no funds budgeted for this initiative.

IV. Director's Report:

Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday December 4, 2011. Hundreds of children and their parents enjoyed the festivities, which included face painting, cookie decorating, refreshments, pictures with Santa and caroling. Mark and Mary Minotti and students from Minotti Music entertained the crowd with a variety of Christmas carols. The day culminated with the lighting of the tree on the Town Green.

Ms. Pettit extended a special thanks their co-sponsor, McDonalds, for providing juice, Mark and Mary Minotti for coordinating the entertainment, North Haven Knights of Columbus for providing hot chocolate and coffee, the North Haven High School Chorus for the caroling on the Green, the staff from Coldwell Banker Real Estate for volunteering their time, and the North Haven Education Foundation for selling luminaries. Ms. Pettit commented how beautiful the luminaries looked placed around the Green once again this year.

Open basketball for men 18 and older continues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Ridge Road through April 5, 2012 from 6:30-9:30p.m.

Winter recreation and pool programs have begun.

The Spring brochure is almost completed and will be going to the printers in the next week or two.

Planning continues for summer concerts, employment, playgrounds, day camp, Little Rec'ers and sport camps. Summer camps will run July 2nd through August 10th. A 6-week summer program will be offered. Concerts will begin on June 26th and end on August 28th. Ms. Pettit provided the Commission with the lineup of acts. Concerts will run for 10 weeks on Tuesday's at 7:00p.m. First Selectman Freda shared his sentiment of what a wonderful annual event this is and is pleased to see that the concerts have been increased to extend to the Labor Day weekend.

Planning continues for the Easter event which is scheduled for Saturday March 31, 2012. Ms. Pettit will have more details at the March meeting.

Planning for adult softball league is underway. League play will be on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Tuesdays will be used for make ups if needed. Registration begins the first week of March.

Toddler Hoops: Ms. Pettit introduced this new program to the Commission. She explained that Recreation Program Coordinator John Bimonte approached her with the idea. Mr. Bimonte, as a former NHHS Basketball player, has offered to instruct this program. This program, geared for children age 3 to Kindergarten, takes place on Thursday evenings from 6:00–6:45p.m. for six weeks. North Haven Youth basketball starts at 1st grade so programs are not being duplicated. Ms. Pettit was pleased to report that 40 children had signed up. Another session will be offered in the spring. Ms. Pettit indicated that based upon the volunteers that also help run this program, there is no cost to the Town to run the program, and has generated \$1,600 in revenue.

The 2nd monthly Friday Night Dance Party will be held this Friday January 20th. This is a party for adults with special needs. The first dance took place back in November. So far approximately 50 people are pre-registered. Walk-ins will be allowed to register at the door also.

Special Olympics Connecticut: Ms. Pettit reported to the commission that she met with Laurie-Jean Hannon from the Special Olympics State office and local coordinator (and North Haven native) Stephanie Riccio Cerrato to discuss running the first Special Olympic Triathlon in North Haven.

Ms. Pettit explained that this would not be a traditional triathlon. She provided a fact sheet outlining these details to the Commission. Each team will have 2 athletes and 1 unified partner. Each will compete in one event and combine scores to get the winning team. The swimming will take place at the pool, the running at the track and cycling in the Middle School Parking lot. There will be opening and closing ceremonies. The event is scheduled for Sunday April 29th from 1:00-3:00p.m. approximately. Ms. Pettit reserved the High School for parking, the Middle School for cycling, track for running and the pool. Ms. Pettit thanked Ms. Sadosky for her assistance with port-o-lets, trash cans and barricades. Ms. Pettit indicated that this should be very exciting and possibly an annual event in Town bringing in athletes from all over the State. Ms. Pettit will provide further information to the Commission as she receives it.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

On December 4, 2011, the Department of Public Works assisted Recreation with the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony held on the Town Green. The tree was lit nightly through Friday, January 6, 2012, via a timer as configured by Primary Electric the Town's contractor.

On December 31, 2011, the Department of Public Works completed its efforts of a Town-wide storm debris clean-up, including trees and branches that were damaged or deposited on Town Parks during Storm Alfred.

Max Sinoway Baseball club management met with the Office of the First Selectman and the Department of Public Works on November 21, 2011 to discuss the proposed usage of Montowese fields and requested the use of additional fields (Board of Education (BOE) – Bailey Road) for the Spring of 2012. This request is currently being discussed between Public Works, the First Selectman and BOE.

STEAP Grant Applications 2012 – during the week of January 9, 2012, the Town received news that all four (4) of its Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant applications were denied by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy Management. The applications included the rehabilitation of Montowese Elementary School Playground, refurbishment of four (4) existing tennis courts at Ridge Road School and Carina Park, and the construction of a Youth Football Club/Meeting House and Storage Facility at Vanacore Field.

North Haven Soccer and North Haven Lacrosse Clubs – on December 22, 2011, members of the Board of Education (BOE) Athletics Department, Department of Public Works Parks, and the North Haven Soccer and North Haven Lacrosse Clubs met to discuss the anticipated field needs of both clubs. The weekend usage of Vanacore Field by the Lacrosse Club was a major focus of discussions and Public Works and BOE staff are currently trying to work out a schedule that permits the best possible usage of all Town – BOE fields for those involved.

USAELITE Softball has proposed a second college recruiting softball event for July 12th – 15th, 2012. Like the 2011 event, it is expected that this event will draw thousands of recruits, their families, coaches and members of the public to North Haven for the 4-day event. USA Elite requests that the Commission and Town approve of their request again for July 2012.

Discussions continue regarding the placement of a Paws in the Park Dog Park in the rear of the Grover Wyman Park. To date, the 'Paws in the Park' volunteers continue to work with the Town's Land Use Department in an effort to solicit Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commission Approvals (Section 8-24). The last meeting held on January 11, 2012 indicated that there were little to no funds available for the overall effort and the volunteers may make a formal request for funds for the project to this Commission for consideration.

VI. New Business

North Haven Education Foundation Request for Use of Showmobile for All-Class Reunion: Ms. Stamp reported that the North Haven Education Foundation has requested use of the Showmobile at the North Haven High School for their All-Class Reunion scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2012. Ms. Stamp has already received confirmation that there are no other events that day that would conflict with the use. Ms. Stamp indicated that this event will be coordinated with Career Day, so returning alumni can participate in both events.

Suzanne Lewis made a motion to approve the request the use of the Showmobile for the North Haven Education Foundation, seconded by Joe Capucci.

VII. Public Participation.

None.

VII. Adjournment:

Mary Lou Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Frank Montagna, seconded by Susan Puzycki. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 5:30pm.