

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting May 21, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:30pm.

I. Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent: Michael Pomichter

Staff Present: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Carla Riccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Al Centone made a motion to accept the March 19, 2012 minutes, seconded by Suzanne Lewis.

III. Correspondence:

Ms. Sadosky received a letter dated March 25, 2012 from Dominic Colavito, from the Jimmy V Foundation, requesting the use of Grover Wyman and Gateway fields for the annual "Never Give Up Softball Tournament" from August 17, 2012 through August 19, 2012 (*Rain dates: 8/24/12-8/26/12*). They also requesting that any fees associated with the uses of the field be waived by the Town.

This item of correspondence is addressed under *New Business*.

IV. Director's Report/ Old Business:

Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

The Annual Easter event took place on Saturday March 31st. The event was well attended and everyone had a great time. Ms. Pettit gave a special thanks to co-sponsor McDonald's on Washington Ave. as well as to Ellen Gomes and Toni Fazio from Calcagni Real Estate for volunteering for the 17th year as judges for the Easter Bonnet and Top Hat contests.

The Special Olympics Triathlon was held on Sunday April 29th at the Middle School track and parking lot and at the Town pool. Ms. Pettit reported on this great event. They hoped to get 8 teams for the first year and they exceeded their goal. A total of 12 teams from across the state of CT participated. The event was well attended. Laurie Jean Hannon from Special Olympics CT was very pleased with the outcome. The hope is to make this an annual event. Visiting teams were very impressed with the facilities, especially the pool.

The 19th Annual Fishing Derby took place on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Once again, over 150 children registered for this event. The event was very successful again this year. The weather cooperated. Ms. Pettit gave a special thanks to the following companies for their sponsorship: McDonald's on Washington Ave., Dunkin Donuts of Washington Ave., Tom Villano, Dairy Queen of Whitney Ave., Double J Sound, Uncle B's Bait and Tackle, Antonio's Sub Shop, DJ's Comics and Cards, Southern CT Tackle, Hal Brown Company, Dougon Automotive. Finally, she thanked the Public Works staff in their support of the event.

Summer registration has begun for both recreation and pool programs, which will begin July 2nd.

Pool hours are changing as of July 2nd for the summer.

Pool and Recreation Center maintenance has been scheduled. The pool will be closed August 12th – 19th. The Recreation Center will be closed for programs and meetings August 20th – August 31st. The gym floor will be refinished on August 30th and 31st.

Reminder: Music Under the Stars will begin on Tuesday June 26th and run through August 28th. Ms. Pettit shared that there will be a jazz concert on Tuesday June 19th as former students from North Haven High School band program will be performing with Steven Cusano leading the group. They are looking to raise money to donate back to Ken Tedeschi's music program. The setup will be the same as the concert series with food vendors and assistance from Recreation, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments.

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Public Works supported the Special Olympics Triathlon held at the North Haven High School – Middle School Track and Parking Area on April 29, 2012. The event was well attended and very successful.

Public Works continues with field preparations and linings for North Haven Lacrosse on the Aces, Vanacore, Recreation and Middle School fields. Fields are needed through June 17, 2012.

Public Works continues with field preparations and linings for North Haven Soccer Club on Memorial, Rock Road and Ridge Road fields. Fields are needed through the summer months (July and August included for Summer Soccer Camps).

Public Works confirmed the scheduling for the Recreation Special Olympics events scheduled on Green Acres field from June 13, through September 5, 2012.

Public Works continues with field preparations for Recreation Softball at the Gateway Complex and Grover Wyman fields. Fields are needed through August 16, 2012.

Public Works continues with field preparations for North Haven Girl's Softball Sundown League for Gateway Fields Nos. 2 – 7. Fields are needed through July 31, 2012.

Public Works continues with field preparations for Max Sinoway Baseball at Montowese, Gateway, Green Acres, Clintonville School, Brook and Bailey Road fields. Various fields (not all) are needed through July 31, 2012.

Max Sinoway Opening Day festivities were held at Montowese Fields on April 28, 2012. The event was very successful and well attended.

Public Works supported the Annual May Market for the North Haven Garden Club on the Town Green held on May 12, 2012.

The Annual Memorial Day Parade is confirmed for Saturday, May 26, 2012, along the Town Center and Town Green.

The Annual Summer Concert Series (10 concerts this year) is scheduled to start Tuesday, June 26th and continue each Tuesday evening through August 28, 2012.

North Haven High School Jazz Band Concert (includes alumni members of the High School Band) has been confirmed for the Town Green on Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

USAELITE Softball is confirmed for their second college recruiting softball event from July 11th – 15th, 2012. USA Elite requests that the Commission and Town approve of their request 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 latest discussions held in May, 2012 indicated that the organization had little funds available and were requesting the Town's assistance in completing soils and inland wetlands mapping. The Town is unable to commit resources to this request.

Animal Haven is scheduled to use of the Town Green for Saturday, June 2, 2012, for their Annual Tag Sale. A proposed Rain date of Sunday, June 3, 2012 has been identified.

New Business

The North Haven Fire Department has requested use of the Town Green for a table to sell food during the Memorial Day Parade. This request has been initially approved of by Dan Riccio as part of the Parade Committee. The request was forwarded to the QVHD for necessary food related approvals.

Food Vendor Applications for the Town Green Summer Concert Series Under the Stars are due June 1st.

Ms. Sadosky provided the commission with the following updates to date:

Joe's Ice Cream: will be submitting their completed application on May 22nd.

Tastebuds: confirmed that they will not be participating this year.

Rotary Club: has submitted their application. They will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, baked goods, water.

Sozo Café: has submitted their application. They will be selling coffee, iced coffee, smoothies, frozen hot cocoa and muffins.

J. Roos: has picked up an application and will be submitting their request soon.

Montowese Volunteer Fire Department: there has been no response as of yet.

NHTV: They are currently working with the Rotary and J. Roos to determine what to sell as to not duplicate their offerings; perhaps fried dough will be an option.

Firemen's Convention and Parade planned for Sunday, September 16, 2012, will start at 12 noon at the Middle/High School parking areas and continue along Shawmut to Washington Avenues, ending at the North Haven Fairgrounds. Approximately 300 fire apparatus and 11 marching bands are expected to be included in the parade among other dignitaries and special guests.

North Haven High School Boys Soccer Team Request to sell candy at Concerts Under the Stars: At the last meeting, Ms. Sadosky acknowledged correspondence received by North Haven High School Boys Soccer Team who were seeking approval to set up a table to sell soccer merchandise, baked goods, candy and water during the summer concerts in order to raise money towards their summer 2013 trip to Spain.

Since the last meeting, Ms. Stamp contacted Diane Bogart, the soccer team representative, who indicated to Ms. Stamp that based on available volunteers, they will pick three concerts (one in June, one in July and one in August) to sell these goods. Ms. Stamp confirmed that Montowese Elementary School PTA will not be participating this year, and told Mrs. Bogart that there will be no conflict for the organization.

V. New Business

Jimmy V Foundation's Request for use of Grover Wyman Field and Gateway softball field for the annual Never Give Up Softball tournament: Scheduled for from August 17, 2012 through August 19, 2012 (*Rain dates: 8/24/12-8/26/12.* They also requested that any fees associated with the uses of the field be waived by the Town.

Frank Montagna made a motion to allow use of the field as well as waive any associated fees, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor.

Discussion Regarding Sports Play Sundays prior to 12noon: Mary Lou Stamp opened discussions among the commission as to whether a long standing unwritten rule regarding "no sports play prior to 12pm on Sundays, should continue to be upheld.

In light of learning that it is becoming the norm that many leagues have been implementing start times as early as 9:00 am on Sundays, Ms. Stamp felt that the commission should discuss whether this should be allowed, or if the long standing unwritten rule that was created many years ago among town clergy and Town representatives should be upheld.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding this topic among the Commission members. Additionally, Ms. Stamp shared First Selectman Michael Freda's opinion on this subject. Mr. Freda feels that the decision should remain between the league officials and the parents. Furthermore, he thinks that allowing earlier start times helps to alleviate some of the stresses of field scheduling, as a shortage of fields exist. The conversation continued and a variety of ideas explored whether logistical impositions would be felt among Town departments, umpires or any other group involved. The overall sentiment among the commission members was that should an agreement for early sports play continue then each league could address the issues on an individual basis.

Ms. Sadosky agreed to send an email to every league (baseball, softball, football, lacrosse, soccer) to solicit who plays on Sunday's and at what times, as well as what times they leagues would prefer to play on Sundays, if given the choice.

VI. Public Participation.

Mr. Ramesh Subramanian, PhD and North Haven resident was present to request permission and or guidance in order to proceed with assisting to clean up the walking trail behind his property that has fallen into disrepair. He provided detail on the area, his use of this area, and his willingness to personally have his family get involved in cleaning the area up.

Ms. Stamp suggested that this may be a possible appropriate project for an Eagle Scout group. Ms. Stamp will reach out to the two local Boy Scout troops in town to propose this idea.

Adam Pandolfi and John Bimonte, North Haven residents, attended the meeting on behalf of the Adult Softball League. Mr. Pandolfi stated his concerns regarding the condition of the adult softball fields and that Grover Wyman is routinely a wet field and difficult to play on, especially after the rains. Additionally, Mr. Pandolfi stated that when at Gateway field 1, their team has difficulty sharing the fields with youth football and softball as well as other teams that are there to practice. Mr. Pandolfi asked if anything could be done to repair Grover Wyman as it has poor drainage and the outfield is in poor condition. Mr. Pandolfi stated that the adult softball leagues over the past few years have gone from 12 to 6 teams and they are suffering more and more due to the lack of available fields.

Ms. Sadosky stated that she well understands the lack of available fields as all sports are realizing this issue. Additionally, to repair the fields and allow Public Works to address the drainage on Grover Wyman, the field would have to be shut down for a season and given the lack of fields available now, this would only tax other fields that much more – like Gateway. Ms. Sadosky informed the Commission members that over the last 3 ½ years she has seen the memberships increase by as much as 50% in Max Sinoway, North Haven Soccer, American Legion and Lacrosse. These added members have increased the number of games and practices on all available fields but at a cost of resting the fields. It's a difficult issue that needs to be addressed through a long term solution – perhaps a Capital Bonding Package.

VII. Adjournment:

Chairman Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Joe Capucci, seconded by Al Centone. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 5:30pm.