

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members  
From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation  
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting March 18, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:29pm.

I. Attendance:

*Commissioners Present:* Joe Capucci, Al Centone, Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna,  
Michael Pomichter, Susan Puzycki, Mary Lou Stamp.  
*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 January 22, 2013 minutes, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

None.

IV. Director's Report/ Old Business:

*Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation*

Registration for Spring recreation and pool programs continues. Programs will begin in April.

The Annual Easter Extravaganza will take place on Saturday March 23, 2013 at the Recreation Center from 10:30-12:00pm. The indoor event will include pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, top hat and bonnet contest, entertainment and refreshments provided. At the conclusion of the event, each child will receive a bag of chocolate eggs.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Ms. Pettit expects close to 300 children to register for this event once again this year. With this being the 20<sup>th</sup> year, a few extra things will be added to the event. They have confirmed with the New Britain Rock Cats that the mascot Rocky will be making an appearance. They are also still waiting to hear back from some of their contacts.

The Summer brochure will be going to the printer this week. The brochures will be distributed to all the elementary schools in the next few weeks. Registration for summer begins on May 6, 2013.

The summer employment program continues. Applications were being accepted beginning December 15, 2012 and closed last Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>. All the new applicants will be interviewed to fill the vacant spots. These positions are for playground counselors.

*Adult Softball:* League play will be on Mondays and Wednesdays for men. Monday there will be a 10 team league and Wednesday there will be a 9 team league. Ms. Pettit reported that they unfortunately could not get enough women's teams to run a league. Many teams are having trouble getting sponsors. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be utilized for makeup games if needed.

*Summer Concerts:* There will be 11 concerts in the Music Under the Stars series. The concerts are on Tuesdays beginning June 18<sup>th</sup> and ending on Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>. One more concert has been added from last year. In addition to Music Under the Stars, there will be 2 other concerts on the Green. On Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, the high school jazz band will perform their annual concert. On Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, Stephen Cusano will again be having the benefit concert as he did last year. Music Under the Stars will kick off on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The high school works directly with Public Works. The concert on the 15<sup>th</sup> will have the same setup as each night of the series.

*Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works*

Lynn Sadosky started her report by sharing some of the schedules as submitted by the Board of Education (BOE) and Town of North Haven Sports Leagues and some of the events as scheduled on the Town Green, including:

BOE Track and Lacrosse commences their season on Vanacore Field on March 18, 2013.

Special Olympics Track and Field commences their 'Sunday's only' season on Vanacore Field on March 11, 2013.

BOE Senior Varsity Baseball commences their season on Brook and Bailey Road Fields on March 18, 2013.

BOE Baseball and Varsity Softball commences their seasons on the DeMayo Athletic Complex on March 18, 2013.

BOE Boys and Girls Lacrosse commences their season on the Middle School Field on March 18, 2013.

Pond Hill Baptist Church will hold its annual Easter celebration on the Town Green on Saturday, March 30, 2013.

Special Olympics Softball –the season commences at Green Acres School field on June 19, 2013 and will continue through September 4, 2013.

North Haven Girls Softball – the season commences at Gateway Fields on April 15, 2013 and will continue through August 1, 2013.

North Haven Lacrosse Club – the season commences on April 1, 2013 and concludes on June 15, 2013. The Club continues to utilize Vanacore Field for games the Recreation and North Haven Fairgrounds fields for practices.

Max Sinoway Baseball – the season commences on March 15, 2013 for practices and April 22, 2013 for games and concludes at the end of June 2013. Opening Day Ceremonies have been scheduled for April 27, 2013 at Montowese Park.

Annual May Market – has been confirmed for May 11, 2013 on the Town Green.

North Haven Memorial Day Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, May 27, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and will utilize Vanacore and Bailey Road Field areas.

BOE Football commences their season on the Middle School Field on June 3, 2013.

Animal Haven Annual Tag Sale - has confirmed their use of the Town Green for Saturday June 8, 2013 (rain date June 9, 2013).

BOE Varsity Softball All-Star commences their event on June 10, 2013 at the DeMayo Athletic Complex and June 13, 2013 at Brook Field.

Recreation Department Tennis commences their season at the DeMayo Athletic Complex on Saturday's beginning on June 8, 2013.

Recreation Department Softball Pitching and Summer Camp commences their season on July 8, 2013 at the DeMayo Athletic Complex.

Elite Girls Softball Event – commences July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 on the Gateway Complex, Bailey Road and Brook Fields and the DeMayo Athletic Complex.

Festival of Angels (Sons and Daughters of Italy) has confirmed the use of the Town Green for August 16 and 17, 2013. They are currently working out details now for Police, Fire and Public Works personnel needs and services.

North Haven Soccer Club – the season commences at Memorial, Ridge and Rock Road fields on April 1, 2013.

Recreation Department Golf commences its Monday's Sessions on the Recreation Field on April 8, 2013.

Todd's Pond Dredging Project – Public Works continues with a dredging project at Todd's Pond Park on Maple Avenue as part of a long standing effort with the Southwest Conservation District

to bring the Pond and its associated aquatic/vegetative life back to an acceptable condition and one, which the residents will appreciate post construction. Work continues according to weather.

Montowese Elementary School Playscape – A Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant was awarded for Playscape Refurbishment specific to the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Play Equipment. The project budget of \$70,000 includes a \$50,000 grant and an additional \$20,000 raised by the Montowese School and Parent Teachers Association (PTA). The contract was awarded to the Glen Terrace Landscaping Company of Hamden. Public Works demolished and scrapped metals from the existing 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Playscape on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and Glen Terrace will commence their construction activities on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

Grover Wyman Park - Discussions continue between the Town, Interact and Junior Rotary Club members regarding potential improvements, which could be made to the Grover Wyman Park and its associated playscape, concession stand, trees and overhead canopies and picnic areas. An initial meeting was held on August 20, 2012 to introduce those interested in improving the Park and the types of potential projects, which could be undertaken during the current school year by Junior Rotary students who were also graduating in June 2013 and 2014.

The Town and Department have been a party to ongoing discussions with the Kusmit Family and their representatives to locate a Park in Town where a Bike Path Park/Project could be proposed, designed and constructed by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The latest meeting help with this Community Group was held on Friday, March 15, 2013 in the Selectman's Office. The bike path will span 8 feet wide and extends one-third of a mile, and is expected to be constructed this summer. A bike-a-thon will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the family in honor of Connor Kusmit.

### **Old Business**

Supervision at the track at Vanacore Field - At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Al Centone raised concerns about the monitoring of the high school track during the off season. As promised, Mary Lou Stamp reached out to Police Chief McLoughlin requesting that patrols at the track be increased. Ms. Stamp shared the explanation that Chief McLoughlin gave her regarding the request. She explained that the patrol car assigned to the 55 Bailey Road area is a centrally located patrol car used to not only patrol the Bailey Road area, but also to serve as a backup to every other patrol car in town. Thus, in the event of an emergency, the patrol car must respond to that respective location. As a result, the Chief explained that the Police could never guarantee a patrol car to be present during the timeframe that the Commission would be looking for. Ms. Stamp encouraged members to continue to think of new ways to 'patrol' the area.

### **New Business**

*Review of Sports League Subsidy Requests:* Upon the close of the subsidy request deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>, three sports leagues submitted their applications requesting funding for their upcoming seasons. The Commission reviewed each.

1. Max Sinoway Baseball Subsidy Request: Funding in the amount of \$4,000 for this season;

2. North Haven Lacrosse Club Subsidy Request: Funding in the amount of \$7,000 for this season; and
3. North Haven Soccer Club Subsidy Request: Funding in the amount of \$6,000 for this season.

Prior to the Commission members discussing the subsidy requests, Ms. Sadosky reported that she had met with First Selectman, Michael J. Freda and Director of Finance, Edward J. Swinkoski who had asked her to share some pertinent information about this and next year's budget constraints.

Ms. Sadosky informed the Commission members that while the FY 2013 budget line approved for the Sporting League Subsidy Requests is \$14,000, we have been asked as a Commission to consider approving of no more than half of the approved amount or no more than \$7,000 for this Fiscal year. Ms. Sadosky also reported that moving forward; there was a real possibility that the budget line for Sporting League Subsidies may be eliminated altogether.

In light of this new information, and after a discussion among the Commission members, Ms. Stamp recommended that the subsidy requests approvals be tabled until the May meeting, encouraging the commissioners to take a closer look at these requests prior to making their decisions. Suzanne Lewis made a motion that the commission closely review these subsidy requests and that they will make the decisions at the May meeting, seconded by seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor and the subsidy requests were tabled until May 20, 2013.

*Review of Parks & Recreation Facilities Fee Schedule (1997):* After the development and adoption of the Guidelines for Park and Field Use by the Department of Public Works ("Department") and the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department along with the Department of Finance and Administration is now working to incorporate the 1997 Fee Schedule for the use of Town fields and Parks into those Guidelines. Ms. Sadosky shared with the commission that they have begun reviewing the 1997 schedule in order to update the fees to reflect current day costs. They are looking carefully at actual costs to support the various sports leagues and events. Once this information is gathered they will be able to better determine the appropriate fees to the respective organizations.

*Potential Field Closures:* Ms. Sadosky mentioned that due to the potential field conflicts that exist and numerous requests received for fields for the 2013 Season, some fields MAY be closed or unavailable for use periodically. These closures MAY be necessary due to safety and/or maintenance related concerns.

Ms. Sadosky addressed the ongoing issue of field shortages in Town and that the existing Sporting Leagues appear to be increasing in size. Ms. Sadosky, in conjunction with Victor Palma and Phil Diana from the Board of Education will be meeting regularly to assess which fields may need to be closed due to the above issues, how long they need to be closed for, what teams will be impacted by this closure, etc.

A recommendation was made by Ms. Stamp to institute a moratorium on granting any new leagues or teams use of a Town or BOE field until further notice, especially when these fields are

being rested and repaired. Ms. Stamp made a motion to institute a moratorium on ANY new leagues or teams submitting a schedule to the Town or BOE for filed use due to the conditions of the Town and BOE fields and associated budgetary constraints, until further notice.

A motion to accept the moratorium as read was made by Michael Pomichter, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor.

VI. Public Participation:

None.

VII. Adjournment:

Chairman Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Al Centone, seconded by Sue Puzycki. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm. The next meeting will take place on May 20, 2013.