

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting January 19, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:32pm.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Frank Montagna, Chris Pagan,
Susan Puzycki, Mary Lou Stamp

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

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 Al Centone. Al Centone made a motion to nominate Frank Montagna as Vice Chairman, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. Mary Lou Stamp made a motion to nominate Al Centone as Secretary, seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor of each nomination.

III. Acceptance of Minutes:

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 16, 2015, seconded by Susan Puzycki. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

IV. Correspondence:

None.

V. Director's Report

Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday December 6, 2015. Hundreds of children and their parents enjoyed the festivities, which included face painting, cookie decorating, ornament making, refreshments, pictures with Santa and hayrides around the Green. Mark and Mary Minotti and students from North Haven Music Center entertained the crowd with a variety of Christmas carols. There was caroling on the Green led by the North Haven High School concert choir. The day culminated with the lighting of the tree on the Town Green.

Ms. Pettit reported that an added feature this year was the participation of North Haven Corinthian Lodge #63 with the CTCHIP program. The CT Child Identification Program is a free program.

Members from the lodge assembled the equipment and manned various stations to gather information. With parental consent, information was taken on each child. Completed ID packages called "Purple Packs" consist of a brief recorded interview, a digital still photograph, fingerprinting of hands, dental bite impression and a cheek swab used for a DNA/Scent Sample. The information was uploaded to a disc for the parents to take home. In the event of a missing child the parents have all this information available to help the authorities locate the child. This is a powerful identification and recovery tool law enforcement can use.

Ms. Pettit extended a special thanks to Mark and Mary Minotti for coordinating the entertainment, North Haven Knights of Columbus for providing hot chocolate, coffee and cookies, North Haven High School concert choir, the staff from Coldwell Banker Real Estate for volunteering their time and members of the Corinthian Lodge for providing such a great service for parents.

Open basketball for men 18 and older continues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Ridge Road through April 7, 2016 from 6:30-9:30 p.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.

The summer employment program continues. Recreation began accepting applications on Monday December 14th. Applications will close at 4:30 p.m. on March 11, 2016. At that time they will interview all the new applicants and fill the vacant spots. These positions are for camp counselors.

Planning continues for the Easter event which is scheduled for Saturday March 19, 2016. The event will run from 10:30 – 12:00. There will be pictures with the Easter Bunny, Top Hat and Bonnet contests, raffles prizes and entertainment.

Planning for the adult softball league is underway. League play will be on Monday and Wednesday. Tuesdays will be used for make ups if needed. Registration begins the first week of March. Play begins April 11th.

Planning continues for summer concerts, employment, playgrounds, day camp and sport camps. Summer camps will run June 27th through August 5th. A 6 week summer program will be offered. Concerts will run 12 weeks beginning June 14th and conclude on August 30th.

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Board of Education (BOE) Football concluded their normal Fall season on the Middle School Field on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015, before heading to the Playoff Games against Wethersfield and then Middletown (December 1, 2015). After successful wins, the team moved on to the Championship Game on December 12, 2015 against the New Canaan Rams.

Youth Football concluded their Fall Season on the Gateway Complex and Vanacore Fields on November 21, 2015.

Annual Tree Lighting – the Annual Tree Lighting was held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 on the Town Green. The event was very successful and well attended.

STEAP Grant Applications – were submitted to the State of Connecticut’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on January 14, 2016. The following projects were submitted for consideration: Improvements to the Central Block (defined as Linsley, Elm, Broadway and Church Streets); Refurbishment of Montowese Park (to include new Playscape, bleachers, fencing, etc.); Green Acres Elementary School Playscapes (for K, 1 -3 and 4 – 5 Grades); and Bailey Road Baseball and Vanacore Practice Football Fields Refurbishments (irrigation systems, refurbishment, backstops).

STEAP Grant Award Vanacore Field Complex – On October 7, 2015, the Town was awarded \$500,000 from the State of Connecticut’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for the demolition and replacement of the existing Mike Vanacore Field Concession Stand, Vanacore Field perimeter fencing (2000 feet) and replacement of the visitor’s bleachers. The new Field House will serve as a replacement concession stand, meeting room for organized sports; include bathrooms and changing facilities for those involved in Youth and Board of Education (BOE) Football, North Haven Lacrosse and cheerleading. The Town awaits its grant paperwork from OPM and meetings are currently being scheduled with BOE, Youth Football and Public Works personnel to discuss project scope and a construction plan moving forward.

USA Elite Girls Softball - was approved to utilize the Board of Education fields for July 16th – 19th, 2016 for the following fields: Bailey Road and Brook fields and the DeMayo Athletic Complex. Communications with USA Elite were made and fields were confirmed for the coming year’s event.

Sponsor a Bench Program – the first ‘sponsor a bench’ was purchased by the Knights of Columbus in honor of their membership and installed by Public Works’ Field Operations on the Town Green in November and is located adjacent to the Veteran’s War Memorial monuments.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. New Business

Mary Lou Stamp welcomed new Commission member Chris Pagan.

VIII. Public Participation:

None.

IX. Adjournment:

Chairman Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Al Centone, seconded by Bob Kowalewski. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 5:30pm.