

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes December 8, 2010**

Recreation Commission Members Present:

Dave Gelo Vice Chairman, Mike Savenelli, Roz Gallagher

Recreation Department Staff Present:

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation,
Michelle Bjorkman Supt. of Programs

Recording Secretary:

Joanne Vass

Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order @ 5:40p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Dave Gelo to accept last October's minutes seconded by Mike Savinelli. (No meeting was held in November due to lack of a quorum).

New Business:

John Gawlak gave a detailed account of the Lifeguard Save at Sheehan pool last month. He invited the two lifeguards on duty, Kaylie and Courtney Wynn, to the meeting this evening to receive a "thank you" gift from the Recreation Department.

Dave Gelo gave an account of the meeting with Mayor Dickinson regarding park usage with and without permits. The mayor suggested making closed signs when not accessible to the public. Dave made comparisons between Town fields vs. Board of Ed fields. John suggested meeting with the BOE Field Chairman to discuss issues. He will also make overtures at the up and coming field users meeting for Spring. A lengthy discussion ensued. The matter is tabled until Spring.

There was a meeting with the Dept. of Public Health, Roger Dann & others involved to review the application for traffic improvements at Viet Nam Vets Park. It was suggested to include all items requested namely: Upper Parking Lot increased in sized to hold 65 vehicles, creating a south end turnaround, widening the bridge.

Mike Savinelli now has a proposed draft of the Commission By-Laws. John has obtained a listing of criteria usually included in by-laws. Mike offered to compare the criteria to the draft and determine if there are any items which should be added. All Commission Members will be sent a copy of the Bylaws and a discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Mike also stated that he has sent a letter to Mr. McCully regarding Linear Trail issues, but as yet has not gotten a response. He will check tomorrow to see if the safety issue of the tree has been taken care of.

Lufberry Disk Golf- John stated that 7 baskets have been installed and are already in use by the public. They are still working on construction of the last 2 baskets and will have a Grand Opening in the Spring.

There is currently a snag in the Bertini Park Project. The vendor that did the initial site walk has pulled out of the project. The second vendor added 4 more elements and the proposal cost more than what we have. There is also a third vendor giving a counter proposal. We are now waiting for the second proposal. Plans have not been finalized.

Kaylie and Courtney Wynn arrived @ 6:10PM. John introduced the girls to the Commission members. The girls gave an account of the incident at the pool. The members asked a few questions. John presented each girl with a fleece vest with the Recreation Logo in appreciation of their efforts.

Wallingford Little League: Lars Edeen would like to have a transition field created at Harrison Park. The dimensions of the field would change from 46' x 60' to 50' x 70'. John spoke to John Thompson in Engineering who will be working on the project. There are fencing issues, but if both leagues agree to move the field 40' north, it could be done. Recutting the field could be a major project (could be a huge expense). There is currently a world wide movement for transition leagues.

Annual State Conference: A Groton concrete masonry businessman attended the conference who has done 9 skate projects in the area. He feels that he could build a cement skate park similar to the Middlefield Skate Park for approximately \$70,000. John contacted Maria Sandt and gave her the builder's information. Our park would be a bit more as we would like to include BMX. The interested parties will do their own fundraising.

Dog Park: Resident Carol Baroski stated that she would help fundraise for a park here in Wallingford if a definite property could be identified. Two other residents are also interested in having one in town as well. There is an area at Community Lake between the Pavilion and the Basketball Court (near the pine trees on the lake side of the trail). There is 1 acre of unused area that could feasibly be fenced in & used for a dog lot. This project would also require its own fundraising. Ms. Baroski will get information and present to Commission at a later date.

Yalesville Little League: The concession stand has been vandalized, including a cut awning. They are attempting to purchase \$1,200 worth of security cameras (with lights, audio message, pictures.) The Fire Marshall has condemned the building until code violation improvements are done. They have asked for the Town's help. Public Works has agreed to make the repairs. A plan is needed to be reviewed by the Fire Marshall.

Budget Cuts/Layoffs: John gave a lengthy discussion of layoffs and how it affected our department, including loss of 1 part time layoff, cut back of hours to 4 other part time positions, and closing of open swim for the Spring.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Mike Savinelli to adjourn and Roz Gallagher seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned by Dave Gelo at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary