

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes March 14, 2012**

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

Dave Gelo, Mike Savenelli, Roz Gallagher, Phylis Murray, Jason Michael

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation

**Attending Guests:**

John Thompson, Director of Engineering

Lois and Elaine Doherty, members of Quinnipiac Trail Advisory Committee

**Recording Secretary:**

Joanne Vass

**Opening Remarks:**

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:03 AM.

He asked Lois and Elaine to give their update on Quinnipiac Trail activities. June 3 is National Trails Day.

They mentioned their handout, which is a formalized guideline policy, what's done & future additions.

Current projects: donation acknowledgement plaques, nature walk and "Buy a Brick" donations.

Current issues: Bank erosion, culvert near footbridge and use of volunteers in area. John discussed in detail current union Local 1183 grievance against volunteers. A field trip was suggested to assess area, inviting the Mayor, Risk Management, Engineering, Rec. Commissioners, and Quinnipiac Advisory members to attend. Meeting is scheduled for March 26 @ 2:30PM.

**Minutes:**

Dave Gelo made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes. It was seconded by Mike Savenelli.

**Old Business:**

Signage: Proper names were obtained by our Account Clerk for Coyle and Carini, Fields. John showed a sample of the size of plaques on order.

Public Works: Top priorities were worked on very promptly. Replacement swings were located at DPW. A discussion ensued re: Rec Commission surveying areas and creating a new priority list. John commended the Rec Commissioners for their efforts in donating their personal time to help facilitate issues. They will meet next Friday March 23 at Doolittle @ 8:00AM to survey area.

Harrison Park: DPW requested closing portion of road. because of landscaping difficulty. Short discussion ensued re: need to access memorial trees.

Wallace Park: Roz is working on quotes from local vendors-will bring picture to vendors. John has someone working on a "rendition of area". Prices and sizes to be discussed at next meeting. John will contact Public Works re: moving of flag. Six new benches will be installed-placement to be determined at a later date. A floral garden may be part of the design plan. Mike will contact the Wallingford Garden Club for their assistance on project. A policy will be formulated at a later date (Founding Fathers-history?). A story in the local newspaper was suggested once everything is decided.

Parks & Recreation Foundation: Jim Bowes (Town Comptroller) will try to attend the April Commission meeting to clarify definition of "Foundation".

Park Permit status: Waiting to hear from ordinance committee.

**Director's Notes:**

SCOW: Maria Harlow – concern over non-Hispanic use of area as skate park area. John attended Board of Youth (YSS) to address. Interest in developing a “passive park” at Garden Road property with paved area for skating, install hoops and other game lines. John has a meeting with SCOW and the Mayor on March 20 @ 2:30PM to discuss.

Budget for July 2012 has passed Mayor's approval. John discussed details with Commissioners. Budget must still go through public hearing and council workshop.

Rotary Bertini Low Ropes Course inspection was discussed at length. 5 major trip outings are planned for May.

Dave asked to be updated on DPW Grievance hearing.

**Other Business:**

John Thompson informed the group that concrete sidewalks will be installed around the David Doherty building within the next month. He also gave them a heads up re: the Community Lake Trail- project extension will be scaled back from original plans.

John Gawlak gave a brief discussion of field usage, issue of permits, field light issues. He would like to form a subcommittee to examine use of fields by Town Leagues (examine actual needs).

Mike Savenelli suggested a possible Adopt-a-Park program if volunteer issue is not resolved. Commission may revisit in future.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday April 11, 2012 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept. Dave will E-mail all commissioners as a reminder of next meeting date. John asked that a memo be sent to Jim Bowes as a reminder of the meeting date in April.

**Adjournment:**

Dave Gelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phylis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary