

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011**

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

Dave Gelo, Mike Savenelli, Roz Gallagher, Phylis Murray

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation,

**Recording Secretary:**

Joanne Vass

**Opening Remarks:**

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:05 AM.

**Minutes:**

Phylis Murray made a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes. It was seconded by Mike Savenelli.

**Old Business:**

Ordinance Committee Meeting: Was held last night, September 20, at the Town Hall. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the result. The initial problem has been mediated, but in the meantime, another group has been dismissed from their permit because they abused it. It was suggested to put protocol on permits if facility is already in use and a reminder to carry permit on day of use. John will take suggestions into consideration.

Grievance filed by Local 1183 against Henry Mc Cully for work performed by volunteers: The Union did file for arbitration (five days late). There will be a hearing twelve months from now in Wethersfield (State Labor Board).

Park bench commemorating Linda Mercuri's years of service: Installation pad is in, Jim Sayre is constructing bench. Recognition Ceremony to be held at the Recreation Dept. at a later date. Michelle will notify Commission when date is determined.

Viet Nam Vets Parking: John said that the State is backed up due to the damage from Hurricane Irene. A signed permit was done yesterday for the proposed additional parking area at Pragemann, so they (State Dept. of Public Health) should now turn their attention to Vets Parking application. John Thompson-estimate for chip seal/guard rail must go with filing issues.

**New Business:**

1. Cell Phones: It was agreed to place cell phones in silence or vibrate mode during Commission Meetings.
2. Commission Foundation: Roz & Mike will meet on October 4 to discuss. John will dig up files he has re: alternative funding sources.
3. Lufberry Park: A 2ft opening in the fence near the playground is of concern as there is a 25ft drop on the other side of the fence. John has sent Guilford Fence to close up area. Also Disk Golf is not officially open yet, but all 9 holes are done.

4. Harrison Park: Dave asked if another sign could be placed under the Harrison Park sign denoting its original name, World War I Memorial Park. John said it could be purchased. He will get quotes for the sign.

Field work at the park was done by WBA, but left unfinished due to lack of funds and man power. John explained issues with the project and the WBA itself. A short discussion ensued.

5. Facility Policy Review: John compared the Board of Education packets to ours (Cert. of Insurance, Fees, etc). Rates and group categories were discussed at length. John will review fees. (All commissioners were in favor of raising rates.) Commission to vote at next meeting.

#### **Director's Notes:**

Celebrate Wallingford: The Recreation Department will have a table set up in a tent with other civic groups. We will add one concert group to their agenda. Former Rec. Shirts and Logo Bags will be given out to those completing surveys. New long sleeve shirts will be worn to identify staff. We will also provide face painting for the children.

Block Grant: A \$6,000 grant from the Health Department will be used for \$3,200 worth of equipment and enrollment fees for the first 33 people signing up for Speed School this Fall. The remainder of the grant will be used to fund a Spring Family Walk, which will be free to participants.

New Commission Member: It was suggested to postpone discussion until after Celebrate Wallingford. Everyone can bring suggested candidates to the table and eventually present to Mayor. (Dave and Mike have had their Appointment extended).

Tyler Mill Open Space: A few of the Open Space Committee Members prohibited someone from stealing Basalt Rocks and made them empty their truckload. Tree damage was reported in the south section of the property. Police have a 4 page document on ATV investigation and other issues in the area.

Fall Field Schedule: John passed out copies and explained items to the Commission. All who attended the Fall meeting were sent copies of the schedule. John explained current issues regarding Fall Little League.

West Side: Fields a mess -no night baseball due to lack of lighting. Vikings Football has a new board. They would like to renovate area, but it is getting late in the season. Teams should play games on turf at Sheehan. League needs to come up with plan now-fundraiser? Raise registration rates?

Community Pool Concession: It was suggested to allow different groups to use as fundraisers (1 week each) as a "good community gesture". John will find out if feasible.

Replacement Hoops: the Recreation Dept. has replaced various basketball hoops at Richard Sheahan, West Side and Doolittle.

Pragemann Park Improvements-Pragemann Field One Back Stop: John has gotten quotes for work. (Guilford Fence - \$19,800). He is hoping to use net already purchased (120' long) in area near guard rail at Parking Lot. Work will go out to bid.

Wallingford Little League: Dave Pegg is the new contact for League. They are planning to build new storage shed, but may find it easier to buy at a cost of \$5,000.

Community Lake: Port-o-Pot Issues- 3 additional clean ups were needed. They will charge extra beyond this. John is contemplating removal for a short time (usually year round) to discourage vandalism.

Mountain Bike Race: Has not run for the last 4 or 5 years, but interest is now being shown again by former promoter (Tony Cippola). John explained old issues. It was suggested to postpone discussion until 2012. We will invite conservation committee to meeting at that time.

Fall Enrollment: Started late due to late brochure arrival. Now in full swing. New brochures for Pre-school for upcoming sessions.

Parking Regulations at Parks: Discussed possibility of transferring power from Police to Dept of Public Works. Lt. Zachrezewski will be invited to next meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday October 12, 2011 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept.

**Adjournment:**

Dave Gelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Savenelli seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary