

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes September 12, 2012**

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

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

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation

**Recording Secretary:**

Joanne Vass

**Attending Guests:**

Mark Semrau (Dog Park Enthusiast)

**Opening Remarks:**

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:08 AM.  
Meeting held at Community Lake.

**Minutes:**

Dave asked for a motion to accept the August Meeting minutes. Roz Gallagher made the motion, which was seconded by Phylis Murray.

**Other Business:**

Dog Park: John explained that Mr. Semrau responded to an article re: Dog Parks in the Wallingford PATCH on line. There was a lot of response to the article (over 20 seriously interested). He had explained to Mr. Semrau what would be needed to move forward:

1. Commission endorsement
2. Meeting with a "core group"
3. Mayoral endorsement
4. Select location

Issues:

- a. need approval from Planning & Zoning
- b. ADA concerns
- c. Linear Trail Committee
- d. Risk Dept. – Insurance Issues
- e. Fencing, equipment, parking availability, etc. (expenses)

Mark Semrau addressed the Commission to request endorsement. He discussed issues, core group activities, and fund raising. The Commission informed Mr. Semrau that he would need to first form a serious "core group" of at least 5 or 6 people with officers before they would be able to endorse the project.

**Old Business:**

Smoking signage at ball fields: Commission will scout areas to check current status. Short discussion ensued.

Public Parks and Buildings: Lengthy discussion of gate issues and locks took place. Commission members made a motion that fields should be locked only when work being done.

Mr. Gawlak feels that it is critical to meet with all leagues re: parental issues, conduct, etc. He will set up individual meetings on consecutive Wednesdays with leagues beginning in October. In addition, to audit league and their field needs. Commission members will compile issues and forward to John.

Kendrick Park: Neighborhood survey will be conducted in an attempt to make improvements to the park.. John will report results at next meeting.

Wallace Park: Will try for council meeting agenda late October or early November. John has quotes for fencing and bench replacements. **The Recreation Commission voted to accept the Final Draft from the Law Department.**

**New Business:**

Park Ordinance Policies: According to memo from Law Dept, ordinance not needed re: SURFACE ONLY metal detecting on public grounds. State of CT Rules cover – residents need initial warning (signage suggested). ATV's NOT ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY BY STATE LAW- ordinance not necessary.

Grand St. Park: Phylis Murray is interested in improving the park. John will forward name of resident who expressed interested in helping to Phylis. SCOW had shown interest 3 years ago.

**Director's Notes:**

West Side Field: Striping done September 12 in evening-completes a parking project started from a year ago of widening and making more efficient.. Brief discussion took place.

Vets Parking: working on grant (three-year issue).

Community Pool: Being drained today. Hopefully to review pool bottom, early painting and any necessary repairs will take place. A brief discussion ensued re: low attendance this year, parking issues, and pass management system for next year.

Recreation Management Software: Support costs with current company will be a \$500 per hour minimum of 8 hours after Oct. 2013. Discussion search narrowed to 5 companies ( 4 here in CT) as new possibilities. Need to research uses and needs, then make presentation to Mayor.

High Roads School: John explained in detail their parking needs (75 cars @ Community Pool was offered). A multiple key lock box was suggested by DPW. Snow plowing costs would be incurred by High Roads. Certificate of Insurance will be needed. Law Dept. will draw up lease to present to Town Council.

YLL Lighting: Light proposal from Musco. DEP has given time extension for project. (Big Diamond and Main Small Diamond).

Harrison Park: Has been Engineered and Staked. Wallingford Baseball Alliance will pay for sod. (field closed-signs will go up). The project is to create a dedicated 50/70 Baseball field.

Woodhouse I: Drill seeding was pushed off for 2 weeks. Soil samples taken – large grubs! League is willing to incur cost of grub control, aeration, and lime. DPW may need to drill seed in Spring.

Baseball Fields I & II at Vets Park: will be drill seeded in 2 weeks. Soccer field 5 will be regraded this Fall.

Lyman Hall Cheerleading: will be using our gym for practice this Fall.

Chris Stone: will be doing teacher training with \$2,000 grant recently awarded by WEA for Rotary Low Ropes Course.

Celebrate Wallingford: Running booth in combination with YSS and Health Dept.- all 3 Dept's will use LIVE WELL WALLINGFORD as theme. Dog Park info will also be distributed. Brief discussion ensued.

John passed out master field schedule of soccer and baseball fields for commission review. John still waiting for DPW to do playground improvements- fall zone protection, swing/chair replacements.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday October 10, 2012 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept. Dave will E-mail all commissioners as a reminder of next meeting date. He will also E-mail copy of agenda to Town Clerk's office directly.

**Adjournment:**

Dave Gelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phylis Murray seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary