

**NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**4 Brush Hill Road**  
**New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812**  
**Telephone (203)312-5633 Fax (203)312-5636**

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday, August 29, 2016**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM AT 33 ROUTE 37**

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Steve Burfeind, Tom Edwards, Mark Lamanna, Jim Ogden, Gary Remley, Fred Testor and Chris Van Steen (arrived 7:12pm)

Members Absent: Mike Ellenberg

Town official present: Parks and Recreation Director Linda Lull

Guests: None

**Call to Order**- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Public Comment**- None

**Approval of Minutes**- Fred Testor made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-1 (Tom Edwards abstained- Chris Van Steen arrived late and did not vote on this motion.)**

**Chairman Comments**- Chairman Sean Loughran spoke of the possibility of an electronic speed sign near the Town Beach. This was discussed further during the Director's report.

**Field Fees Agreement**- The Field Fees Committee added Lower Rebel Field (proposed Lacrosse Field) to the agreement. This field is part of the agreement regardless of whether or not it becomes a turf field or remains a grass field.

Mark Lamanna made a motion to approve the Field Fees agreement to include the new Lower Rebel Field as presented. Fred Testor seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-1 (Tom Edwards abstained- Chris Van Steen arrived late and did not vote on this motion.)**

**Buildings and Grounds update**- The new shed at the Town Beach is in. The old shed has to be emptied and demolished. The Parks and Rec Commission will pay for a dumpster for this. Electrical work needs to be done in the new shed. There was a discussion of when Public Works will get this done and if it is necessary to do this during overtime hours. The commission decided that this is not an urgent matter and should be done during regular hours instead of overtime hours. Sean Loughran will speak to Public Works regarding this.

A work order went in last week for minor repairs for the restrooms at Rebel Turf. There was a brief discussion of an insurance claim from a lightning storm.

**Gazebo-** Fred Testor noted that bids for the building at the gazebo at the playground went out to bids are due back by September 12<sup>th</sup>. A walk through will be done on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Director's update**

Parks and Recreation Director Linda Lull spoke of the following:

The Town Beach is now closed during the week. Labor Day weekend will be the final weekend of the season.

The Turkey Run will be held on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Haunting on the Hollow**

Haunting on the Hollow will be held on Fridays, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturdays, October 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Parking will be held at the Senior Center with a shuttle bus to Great Hollow. Time slots will be ½ long with six people in each group. Approximately 20 volunteers are needed each night. Casting call for volunteers will be Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm at Great Hollow. Commission members will notify Linda Lull with available dates.

The owner of Great Hollow will advertise this event at his two movie theaters (Bank Street and Carmel, NY).

### **Park and Recreation Program statistics- Fund#205**

Steve Burfeind presented the commission with statistics for the self sustaining fund dating back to 2007-2008. This included revenues, expenditures, transfers and beginning and ending fund balances. It was noted that revenues have increased over the last few years.

This presentation also showed areas that generate the most revenues and it was noted that the Day Camp is the biggest revenue generator. The Turkey Run has increased over the last few years. There was a discussion of Waterfront and specifically the Town Beach which operates at a loss every year. Points of discussion regarding the beach included the Blue Raiders Swim Team, concessions at the beach and the possibility of rebuilding the Beach House at the Town Beach. There were suggestions on how to increase attendance at the beach and it was noted that it should be a priority that the beach is ready and open by Memorial Day. There was a brief discussion of revenues for the kayak storage racks and the possibility of building additional racks. The cost to rent a kayak rack is \$45/year and there is a lengthy waiting list for this. The discussion for the swim team included the possibility of getting sponsors for the team, combining swim team with the Day Camp or possibly collaborating with Aqua Flyers.

Beach House

Fred Testor presented the commission with possible plans for a new Beach House at the Town Beach. He presented different scenarios and spoke of the possibility of a “teen center” in the building and also the possibility of adding volleyball, basketball and other games to the beach. It was decided that Fred Testor will present these drawings to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. He will contact the Youth Commission for their feedback.

Electronic speed sign

Linda Lull noted that First Selectman Susan Chapman has asked the commission to consider an electronic speed sign by the Town Beach. The cost of this sign is approximately \$7,800-\$8,800. The commission decided to look into this further and will decide in September.

**Adjournment**- Steve Burfeind made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

**Vote: 8-0-0 (Motion approved)**