

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812
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SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, April 20, 2015
7:00 p.m.
BEACH HOUSE AT TOWN PARK

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Steve Burfeind, Mike Ellenberg, Mike Evans, Mark Lamanna, Gary Remley and Fred Testor

Members Absent: Tom Edwards and Chris Van Steen

Town official present: Parks and Recreation Director Linda Lull and Buildings and Grounds Director Bob Rzasz

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes- Gary Remley made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2015 special meeting as presented. Mike Ellenberg seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Chairman Comments- Chairman Sean Loughran noted that the commission was meeting at the Town Beach so they could determine which trees need to be cut down at the beach.

Buildings and Grounds update

Buildings and Grounds Director Bob Rzasz noted that there was damage to the docks at the marina due to the winter ice. A diver will go down this weekend. There was a brief discussion of the specific arms that will be fixed.

It is hopeful that fields will be open this weekend. All the fields except Cashman are already lined.

There was a discussion of the skinning of the fields for New Fairfield softball.

The Rebel Turf pavilion is now open. The Beach House still needs to be opened.

Trees at Town Beach

Mike Ellenberg made a motion to have designated trees cut down at the (South) Town Beach. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Director's update

Parks and Recreation Director Linda Lull noted that the Regional winner for the HRRRA Recycling Poster contest is from New Fairfield. The Parks and Recreation department will receive a check in the amount of \$1,000 that can be used for programs. The commission is invited to the ceremony that will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:30pm at the Union Savings Bank in Danbury.

Linda Lull gave some suggestions for recycling programs that included putting up rain barrels, or making quilts out of old t-shirts.

There was a suggestion of putting recycling containers at Memorial Field.

The parking lot project originally scheduled to be done at the high school this summer has been postponed and will not affect Day Camp.

Mike Evans will send information to Linda Lull about getting portable soccer nets.

There is a new owner for Great Hollow and has offered New Fairfield the use of the property for two weeks in August at no cost. Maintenance will be done by the owner. Linda Lull will check with First Selectman Susan Chapman regarding the insurance.

Summer drive-in movies

Linda Lull noted that there is new staff at Squantz Pond. A new policy would require \$300 for each movie to have someone maintain the park. There was a discussion about possible other venues for drive-in movies. It was decided to have two movies at Rebel Turf. This year's movies are *Toy Story 3* on July 31st and *The Lego Movie* at June 26th. Steve Burfeind will check with the sports schedule to make sure there are no conflicts.

Bethel will rent the movie equipment for two Thursdays in the summer. Woodbury expressed interest in renting equipment.

New Life Church will hold their last movie in May.

Summer camp counselor interviews have started.

All boat slips have been filled.

There are five kayak storage spots left for the rack by the water and three spots left on the rack by the boat.

Kayak Day will be held Saturday, June 27th.

The garden beds for the Community Garden Club are sold out. Planting will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

Subcommittee Reports

Beach House

Fred Testor met with First Light regarding the Beach House. They had no problems with turning the current concession shack to a lifeguard shed. It was noted that within the next couple of years, marinas will be required to provide access to restroom facilities for everyone. The next step is to talk to the Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman and the Permanent Building Committee Chairman.

The new Beach House will be at the current location but five feet further into the parking lot.

Sean Loughran noted that \$50,000 for the Beach House was cut from the budget this year. This will be on the list the next time there is a STEAP Grant application.

Water Attractions at the Town Beach

Fred Testor gave information regarding water attractions for the beach. These would be permanent structures that will be up all season. A 30 foot zoom flume has a cost of approximately \$3,500.00 and a slide that costs approximately \$1,500. There was a discussion of the logistics of where to put these structures and the electricity required.

Buoys for Town Beach

There was a discussion new buoys for the swim lanes and it was decided to order them in red and white. These lanes will be installed by Memorial Day.

Mark Lamanna made a motion to spend an amount not to exceed \$6,000 on buoys for swim areas at the Town Beach. Mike Ellenberg seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Replacement of Turf at Rebel Turf Field

There was a discussion of the replacement of the turf at Rebel Turf. Work for this will begin on June 22nd and should be done by August 15th.

Mike Ellenberg made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$325,000 for the purchase of Sprinturf Ultrablade (slit file) which includes maintenance devices. Mike Evans seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Field Fees

Steve Burfeind spoke of a request at a recent Board of Finance meeting to raise field fees. Currently the fees are \$40/per person which is the highest in the area. The aggregate amount raised through field fees is approximately \$80,000. Of this \$80,000 approximately \$10,000 each is used for maintenance by both the schools and the town. There was a discussion of the possibility of not taking the \$20,000 out of the field fees revenue but out of their respective budgets. There was a discussion of the best way to pay for maintenance without having to raise field fees.

Rizzotti Court

Fred Testor will inquire with the Lions Club about the possibility of them funding lights at Rizzotti Court at the high school.

Rebel Pavilion

The heat installation is complete at Rebel Pavilion.

Adjournment- Mike Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)