

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

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023
6:00 pm.
NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ROOM
MINUTES

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Tom Edwards, Jim Keller, Mark Lamanna, Gary Remley, and Chris Van Steen

Members Absent: Ken Bennett, Katherina Fostano, and Terra Volpe

Town official present: Parks and Rec Director Linda Lull

Guests: George Frascione representing New Fairfield Softball

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Jim Keller made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 as presented. Tom Edwards seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Chairman's Comments

Sean Loughran noted that:

- Cashman field will start the irrigation project in August.
- A new hot water heater will be installed at the pavilion at Rebel Turf.
- The balance for the Boat Lock Box is \$242,000 as of June 13th.
- A letter of intent is needed by the Town in order to get the building permit for the shed at the softball field.

Buildings and Grounds- Sean Loughran spoke of projects that will be done this summer. Gary Remley asked if anything can be done about the brush along the stone wall at the Town Marina.

Director's Report

Linda Lull spoke of the following upcoming events:

- The Boat Parade will be held on Friday, July 14th with a rain date of July 15th.
- "The Chase" will perform at the gazebo on Memorial Field on July 13th with a rain date of July 20th.

- Squantz Pond will not allow “walk-ins” to the park beginning with the 2024 season. There was a discussion of how this will affect the Town Beach. It was noted that the Town Beach must allow for 10% (about 14 spaces) of their parking spaces to be reserved for non-residents. The commission discussed the optimal amount to be charged for non-resident parking and the cost of admission to the beach. It was decided that non-residents must use the New Fairfield beach if they park in the Town Beach parking lot. The commission discussed the role of parking attendants.

Tom Edwards made a motion to raise the non-resident parking fee at the Town Beach from \$60 per day to \$80 per day and to increase the hours for the parking attendants from 9am to 2pm.

Mark Lamanna seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Waterfront Director Discussion

The commission asked if it was necessary for the Waterfront Director to be lifeguard certified. Linda Lull stated it was because they often need to fill in for a lifeguards. The commission discussed the possibility of using a non-certified waterfront director in a pinch to avoid having to close the beach if no one was available. Linda Lull will check with First Selectman Pat Del Monaco regarding this.

The commission asked about the possibility of having the Town Beach remain open another two hours from 6:00 – 8:00 pm without lifeguards and just someone to lock up. Linda Lull spoke of her concerns about having no lifeguards. There was a discussion about other state beaches and parks staying open after the lifeguards leave. Linda Lull will check with First Selectman Pat Del Monaco regarding this.

New Fairfield Softball

George Frascione representing New Fairfield Softball inquired about the shed. It was noted that the paperwork had been resolved and the deposit would be sent to the vendor soon.

George Frascione asked for approval for a 70’ x 10’ batting cage to be located behind the back stop along the first base line of Memorial 2. This structure would be framed and would be permanent except for the netting. It is possible that men’s softball may use the batting cage too. The commission recommended that George Frascione approach the Zoning Board regarding the batting cage. The estimated cost of the project would be between \$4,000 – \$4,500. The commission did not offer or vote on any financial assistance for this project.

Jim Keller made a motion to support the building of a batting cage at Memorial 2. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.- **All in favor**

New Business- None

Adjournment- Chris Van Steen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Jim Keller seconded the motion. **All in favor**