

***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, OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
**6:00 pm.**  
**NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Members Present:** Sean Loughran (Chairman), Ken Bennett (6:15- 8:00), Tom Edwards, Jim Keller, Mark Lamanna, and Chris Van Steen.

**Members Absent:** Gary Remley and Terra Volpe

**Town official present:** Parks and Rec Director Linda Lull

**Guests:** Ryan Batz, George Frascione and Tom Pardalis (Girls' softball) and Jennifer Pappas

**Call to Order-** Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

**Public Comment**

Jennifer Pappas thanked whoever was responsible for fixing the trenches behind the Hidden Valley Parking Lot. She encouraged the commission to look into ways for the proposed Beach House to bring in revenue.

Ryan Batz, George Frascione and Tom Pardalis from Girls' softball spoke of concerns regarding the maintenance of Cashman field. There was a suggestion of putting a fence near the field to prevent balls from going in the woods. They also asked for first choice for using Cashman Field. The commission discussed options. It was decided that Jim Keller will bring this issue to the Fields Fees Committee.

**Approval of Minutes-** Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2024. Jim Keller seconded the motion- **All in favor**

**Buildings and Grounds Report-** None

**Director's Report**

Linda Lull spoke of the possibility of the commission approving a "blanket purchase order" that will allow for the department to spend up to a certain amount of money without specific approval by the commission. The purpose of this is to allow for purchases without having to wait until the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The commission discussed concerns with this suggestion and decided not to give a blanket purchase order at this time but instead to plan the budget ahead of time.

Public Works will be taking out the docks on October 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a discussion of the maintenance of the docks.

Linda Lull read an email from First Selectman Melissa Lindsey giving the opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the possible new policy of opening the Town Beach without lifeguards. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve up to \$9,500 for Fall/Spring maintenance on docks a the Town Beach. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **New Fairfield Day**

New Fairfield Day held on October 19<sup>th</sup> was very successful. The Parks and Rec Department needed to hire some help due to the limited number of volunteers.

#### **Trick or Treat**

The Trick of Treat event will be held on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

#### **Turkey Run**

The Turkey Run will be held on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the race is \$25 per participant. Linda Lull asked the commission members to email her with their availability to volunteer at the event. There was a discussion of the possibility of using the Middle School for registration. The commission discussed refreshments for the event. Stop and Shop will donate apples and bananas and the Goodie Shop will donate 50 bagels. The commission will buy water bottles and other refreshments.

Mark Lamanna made a motion to approve up to \$500 for refreshments for the Turkey Run. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

#### **Santa's Workshop/Tree Lighting/Holiday Light Parade**

Santa's Workshop/Tree Lighting/Holiday Light Parade will be held on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> with a rain/snow date of Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a discussion of a possibility of a different route for the firetrucks due to safety.

#### **Timber Wolf**

Jim Keller made a motion to approve \$12,900 to pay the invoice for Timber Wolf for the trees at Memorial Field. Tom Edwards seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

#### **Memorial Field Fence repair**

The total cost of the fence repair from Addressi was \$8,400. The commission approved a payment of \$4,850 in July 2024 leaving a difference of \$3,550.

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve an additional \$3,550 for Adessi Fence for the playground and soccer field. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

Ken Bennett made a motion to approve an invoice for \$2,150 from Adessi Fence at Memorial Field. Jim Keller seconded the motion.- **All in favor**

### **Water Testing at Rebel Pavilion and Town Beach**

Linda Lull noted that water testing must be done at the Rebel Pavilion and the Town Beach at least once a month. This was previously done by York Technologies but they decided that it was no longer worth it due to excessive paperwork. There was a discussion of using Eastern Water Solutions. It was decided to defer this to a future meeting.

### **Non resident day pass at the Town Beach**

There was a discussion of the possibility of changing the price for non-resident day passes at the Town Beach. It was decided to defer this to a future meeting.

### **Boat Slips**

There was a discussion of the size of the boats for the boat slips. It was decided to allow boats up to 24 feet in the inside slips and boats of any size on the outside slips. It was decided to allow pontoon boats on the inside slips.

Tom Edwards made a motion to remove the clause from the Boat slip contract that says “pontoon boats cannot be on the inside slips”. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

### **Parks and Rec Capital Accounts**

It was noted that the Parks and Rec Capital accounts can appear to be deceiving because there is usually a high balance at the end of June once summer programs have been paid for but that is when the expenses are highest. There was a discussion of transferring money from the Self sustaining fund (205) to the Capital and Nonrecurring fund (301).

### **Fields and Grounds**

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for clay for the town fields for the Spring. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

Mark Lamanna made a motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$3,000 for sand for the Town Beach. Tom Edwards seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$3,000 for field paint for the town fields. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion. - **All in favor**

### **Future Agenda items**

The next meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission will be held on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> instead of the scheduled meeting for Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment-** Chris Van Steen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.