

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

Town Hall, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONECTICUT 06471-1290

*Parks and Recreation Commission
STW Community Center
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford, Ct. 06472*

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 6 P.M.

Minutes

Attending: Brian Lynch, Steven Torino, Michelle Provencher and Victor Palma.

Absent: Karen Ablondi

*Also Present: Lauren Munro, Director; John Onofrio, George Miller and Rose Angeloni, Town Council;
Jason Heffernan, representing Eagle Scout and Bill Savastano*

Brian Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

3. Approval of Minutes of August 30, 2016 - Special Meeting

The Minutes were corrected to show that it was Russ Senerchia, who represented concerns that the girls Totoket Field Softball teams had been displaced in favor of the NB Football teams, although as reported, John Onofrio expressed those same concerns on behalf of the NB Little League and NB Girls Softball League as well. Steve Torino recommended that, at the next Potato Festival, the Parks and Rec might set up a booth showcasing their programs, not a table as mentioned. After corrections, the Minutes were accepted on the motion by Michelle Provencher, second by Victor Palma.

4. Parks and Fields -

a. Eagle Scout dog park kiosk - On behalf of Eagle Scout candidate Jake Hawley, who could not be present tonight his father, Jason Heffernan, explained that he had looked at the signage in the North Farm Park as suggested at last meeting and felt that it might be made to fit the kiosk. Since the Candidate couldn't be there due to school commitments to explain his plans, the Commission recommended that he would be placed first on the Agenda at the next meeting for his convenience. The Commission would like an update as to design and colors and to see a more detailed plan at that time.

b. Dog Park - Lauren reported that Fran and Eric had met with Century Fence Company for the property.

c. Memorial/Coulter Field - Lauren had some figures of \$101,530 for Memorial Field completion, Colter Field at \$85,250 and Shed at \$12,100 from figures Fran Merola has generated. Funding for these projects was from STEAP grant of \$290,000 and Bond Funds of \$350,00 Leaving a balance of \$42,341 for consideration of Northford Park crack repair. . Rose Angeloni commented that it

will end with two very good fields. Lauren would like to see benches in the additional land outside the fence line at Memorial in order to allow for seating for attendees.

Brian questioned the lighting schedule for the field and tennis courts and Lauren explained that they are on timers that automatically shut them off at 10 pm. The button needs to be pushed prior to 10 p.m. to activate the lights

Steve questioned the design of signs for the various parks and Lauren responded that there will be uniformity in signs pending town council approval. Responding to Brian's question as to the Town Council's take on the repair of the courts for Northford, Lauren had a preliminary meeting but nothing will be decided until she has quotes.

Michelle entertained the motion, seconded by Victor Palma that they move forward on Memorial and Coulter Fields as proposed and it passed unanimously. The Commission expressed appreciation for the backing of the Town Council and all their support of the projects recommended by Parks and Rec in bringing all the fields up to standards that we wished for many years.

d. Mill Road Field - Of the \$10,000 earmarked for work, there is approximately \$1,500 left and Fran recommended that it might be used for benches for the players, but wanted to hold off until certain that it wasn't necessary for more stair work if needed. She also said that if the Coed Softball League got organized it was arranged for them to play at the Sportsplex facility.

e. Totoket Valley Park - Girls softball

It had been coordinated for Football and Girls Softball to share the field at Memorial Park and Field maintenance requested that football rotate usage of the field so as to avoid constant damage to any one part of the field. Brian wondered if they couldn't move youth football practice to the Augur property, since nobody cares about that.

At Northford Park the front field was used for Soccer while the field was off line. The front field will be off line for this fall and next spring to get the field to where it should be. Brian suggested that she notice them about that. Steve commented that he had walked the park and though he didn't notice much debris, the soil was hard as cement and the Commission members remembered that in comments at last meeting people had voluntarily cleaned up the field for play.

5. Potato and Corn Festival - Discussion centered around revision of some of the service contracts and how they could be made better as in the case of if one not living up to their potential and delivering a substandard product and if that the contract could be cancelled without penalty.

a. Updates - There was a suggestion that in leveling off the front field it might be used for more passive recreation, rather than sports. In removing a berm, the fill be used to level off the front section rather than where the tents usually go up and that perhaps a pavilion might be built on the leveled land.

b. Alcohol for sponsor party/Economic Development gathering - That was on the Agenda for the Town Council who took no action on the matter until they can gather more information.

c. Reappointment - Since Rosanne Krajewski has agreed to accept the task of organizing and coordinating the 2018 Potato and Corn Festival so Victor Palma made a motion with a second by Steve Torino, to suggest to the Town Council that she be so reappointed and the Commission voted yes to that motion. After a discussion as to increasing her salary, a second motion was made by Victor Palma, seconded by Michelle Provencher to suggest that the Town Council might consider a salary increase for Roseanne and the Commission again voted yes.

d. Preliminary accounting to Town Council - A partial accounting has been made to Town Manager Michael Paulhus, and Treasurer Anthony Esposito showing that Revenue Received was \$201,503.98; Expenses Paid was \$191,959.01 for a Net of \$9,544.07, however these totals are not final.

6. Town Sports Organizations -

a. Soccer Updates - Due to damage done to the field, and getting it back to condition, the Front Soccer Field will be off line this fall and into next Spring. On the advice of the Commission, Lauren will address the problem with the League.

b. Little League - John Onofrio thanked the Commission for the support they have given.

c. Football Updates - Brian reiterated that all Park and Rec meetings are posted and open to all interested people, but it is up to the Coaches and others to check for them and when interested should attend the meetings. The Commission tries to work to the advantage of every sports organization for the common good. He reported that football practice equipment and the storage unit had been removed to better locations and the field repaired for softball. Things have worked out to allow most teams to return to their schedules

Lauren also reported the new Pickleball courts are being used and enjoyed. There are Pickleball Leagues who are having tournaments statewide and some players from Guilford that are enjoying our courts for practice. She further said that she had put up a net on the new courts, but found problems with them and is working with the company to address her concerns.

7. New Property Projects - Nothing to report

8. Program Review - There was a survey sent out to participants of this year's summer Kids Kamp and Lauren is awaiting feedback. Pat is resigning and Lauren will be looking for a replacement. Victor and Brian both suggested that she look through the previous applicants and reach out to see if there was still interest in the job.

9. STW Community Center - Lauren attended a Freedom of Speech meeting last week and found it very informational. She also explained that there was a serious odor problem and thought it concerned the fans, however Rose Angeloni explained that they had the same odor problem at the

school and since both are connected to the same sewer line, the Town is looking into it being the source of the odors and it should be corrected shortly.

Steve Torino questioned if Lauren had looked further into the possibility of using the defunct courts for other sports. She said she was approached by a Town resident who expressed interest in using them for hockey, however nothing has been decided as yet. Steve requested that it be added to the Agenda.

10. Senior Center - Everything is good.

11. Public Comment - None

12. Adjournment - On a motion by Victor Palma, second by Brian Lynch, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi, Clerk