

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, January 24, 2017 - 6 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Michelle Provencher, Steve Torino and Victor Palma

Absent: Karen Ablondi

Also present: Lauren Munro, Recreation Director; Shawn Keogh, Program Supervisor; George Miller, and Rose Angeloni, Town Council; John Onofrio, NBLL; Bill Savastano and Paul White, VFW.

Chairman Brian Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Brian explained that he had heard from Karen Ablondi that she would be resigning as a member of this commission. She had been a very loyal and helpful member and took on a great deal of duties while serving and will be sorely missed. Brian thanked her for her years of service.

The Minutes of October 25, 2016 - Special Meeting were accepted as submitted on the motion by Steve Torino, Second by Victor Palma.

Parks and Fields:

a. Eagle Scout dog park kiosk: Brian Lynch said inasmuch as the Scout was not present again at this meeting he would check to see if he was still interested in doing the project and if not he might know of another scout who would be interested.

b. Memorial/Coulter Field: Memorial Field looks great, a lot of work is done and the dugout shells are in, though not roofed as yet. The infield at Coulter is done, the electric is updated and they should be ready by April.

c. Mill Road: Eagle Scout stair work has been started and the field should be ready for the season as well.

Steve Torino inquired whether there were any ordnances concerning use for flying drones from the fields and a discussion followed as to who would be best suited to set such rules and, because it is a rather new thing, what rules might be required. Steve and Michelle had firsthand knowledge of some aspects. A pilot license is required which means that the State and Federal Officials might need to be involved. There are already some rules to be adhered to pertaining to distance and hovering, so it was decided that it might be best to first have Town Council input and more information gotten before P & R took action as to use of the parks for this endeavor.

He also questioned about the Pickleball courts and Lauren said they were closed for winter, but will be playable again in the spring. There is play indoors on Thursday nights at the Community Center and will be adding another night due to numbers.

There was also discussion concerning the question from previous meetings concerning the filling in portions of the Auger Property, but due to wetlands on the property nothing is decided. Rose Angeloni said it might be best addressed at the budget hearings.

Back to fields, Lauren said that the Calvo soccer field in Northford will remain off line for spring.

Potato and Corn Festival:

Lauren said that Roseann has already started on the festival contacting entertainment and crafters. She is looking for new ideas for this year. Thoughts were that a woodcarver in the area might give an demonstration for a nice change, especially because the ice sculpting at a previous festival was well received. It was recommended that she look into it.

a. Alcohol for sponsor party/Economic Development gathering was discussed by the Town Council who voted to allow it for two hours. Brian had been approached by a new business who is operating a brewery and wished to see if he could be part of the PoCo festival, however since alcohol is general forbidden on Town property there was no support for his, however since there will be alcohol at the sponsor party, might it be an opportunity to also allow for a beer and/or wine tasting inasmuch as there is a new winery in Northford who might also be interested

Town Sports Organizations:

John Onofrio expressed thanks to the members for their support toward repairing the fields and was pleased with the work that was done.

a. Updates: Lauren said that the portable toilets are currently being renegotiated.

b. Letter for sports leagues 2017 requests have gone out.

Program Review:

a. New Recreation Program Supervisor: Lauren introduced the new Supervisor as Shawn Keogh and he was warmly received.

b. Kidz Kamp: Should be a good year with lots of new ideas.

c. Updates: The Annual Father Daughter Dance is Scheduled for February 3rd from 6 to 8 and the staff is working on the new spring brochure. They plan insert in it in the Totoket Times.

STW Community Center:

a. STW Playground: Questioned about the state of the playground equipment, Lauren said it was being put out for bids at present and she'd like to have it ready by June.

Brian requested plans for the location of the benches at Memorial Park.

There is a wellness program at Jerome Harrison that the Community Center is pairing with.

Senior Center:

In regards to the Senior Lunch program, Lauren said it depends upon a lot of variables. On holidays it could be as many as 50 people, but generally about 12, but can be up to 20. In answer to cost, it is subsidized and additional funding from the bus trips and average cost is about \$3.00. Asked about whether the price might be keeping them away, she said they would never turn anyone away.

Memorial Day Parade:

Thought has been given to the parade route being changed to utilize the Auger property and Bill Savastrino offered that the VFW would sponsor Hot Dogs and chips. As part of the memorial he proposed that there being no physical memorial for James Edward Creamer, Jr. a 25 year old North Branford native, who remains missing in action from Vietnam and the only MIA from town , there might be a plaque added to the present memorial dedicated to the veterans of that war. After a great deal of discussion as to how this might be done, it was decided that the matter be turned over to the Town Council to decide with the approval of the Parks and Rec Commission. Victor Palma and Michelle Provencher were in agreement and Brian Lynch carefully worded the recommendation to submit the request to the Town Council that they consider adding a plaque to the memorial in such a way as not to diminish the sacrifice of the others on the memorial., the motion was made by Victor and seconded by Michelle to approve the request.

Public Comment:

Rose Angeloni reminded the Commission that budget workshops will be set for March and paperwork is due in by the end of February.

Victor Palma made the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi