

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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The Parks and Recreation Commission
STW Community Center
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford, Ct. 06472
Thursday, March 29 2017 - 6:00 PM

Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Brian Lynch, Victor Palma Michelle Provencher, Steve Torino and John Onofrio.

Also Present: Director Lauren Munro; George Miller, Town Council Rep.; Jake Hawley, Eagle Scout Candidate and Bill Savastrano, VFW.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Lynch at 6:00 pm and welcomed John Onofrio as a new member to the Commission.

Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2017 - Special Meeting: The following corrections were made setting priorities that the Courts being converted to multiuse are at Stanley T., not TVP, and the amount was \$172,000. The motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected by Steve Torino, second by Michelle Provencher.

Parks and Fields:

Eagle Scout Dog Park Kiosk: Jake Hawley presented a sheet with the design details and explained that he had met with National Lumber and Anderson Glass, both of whom said they would be helping fund the project that he thought might cost somewhere about \$700/\$800 to build and wondered if Parks and Rec might kick in for some of the cost. He explained that when he started he thought there was funds available through the Dog Park project, however Brian Lynch explained that when a candidate for Eagle Scout presents a project, he is expected to do his own fundraising as part of the plan, design and build with the help of others under his supervision. He offered his assistance if there was no one to do so. Then Lauren, explained further that Eric, who was the one who presented the Dog Park Plan was relocating out of the area and there is a question as to whom is to take over. Unsure of the dog park status until the next meeting with Eric and Fran. It had been meant as a self-run project, with Public Works doing the mowing, but members of the group were supposed to keep the area clean and provide supplies. With the project now in limbo, she doesn't know what the Town's plans will be. Brian commented that there were many other projects for Jake to work on and he'd get back to him.

Memorial/Coulter Fields: Two new benches have been installed and fencing is waiting to be installed. Fields will be ready for the season.

NBHS Tennis Team:

Lauren is looking for rollers to sweep the water off the tennis courts. Victor recommended that she check with the provider for info on the type of rollers best suited for the job.

Potato and Corn Festival:

In looking for new venues of interest, a member of a local farm family, Alex DeFrancisco addressed his idea that had been presented to the Festival Committee concerning offering a Beer tasting event. His family farm has started growing hops and he is making his own brew, joining a group of local small breweries who would like to introduce their brews to the area. If given permission, they would be utilizing the soft ball field which would be self-contained and they would man the gates, sell and collect tickets and also to request ID at the gate. The group maintains their own insurance and he proposed that it would be only for an hour or so each day. Members of the Commission like the idea of promoting a local farm that has always supported Town events, including providing Corn for the festival, however cautioned that he would have to get Town Council approval due to the Town prohibiting of alcohol on Town property. Victor Palma made the motion with a second from Steve Torino, to approve the concept, however it would require a special permit from the Town, but the Commission itself gave their blessing.

Lauren explained that there were several other new ideas to do this year, including a photo contest and spelling bee. She said that they talking about selling advance tickets through Groupon. Things are moving quickly and they have already about \$4,000 in donations.

The Commission discussed ways of increasing volunteers and thought the best way was to make a full page ad listing the names of volunteers as a way of thanking them. A survey had gone out with many responses offering suggestions to make it better this year. The dates have been announced as August 4th, 5th and 6th.

Sports Organizations:

Letters had been sent out requesting information as to needs concerning fields. Soccer shared that their numbers thus far are down and they were considering merging with East Haven. Soccer is

wanting the bleachers pushed back at North Farms Park and permanent lighting at Calvo Field. There might not be available funds to push back the bleachers this year due to work that would be required of moving part of the hill. Also after talking with PW timing might be a concern for this year. She said that the Mill Road drainage is working well and the High School is using the field for their Ultimate Frisbee Team.

The Eagle Scout project for the handicap ramp is in need for the landing to be finished. It is currently taped off for security reasons.

Program Review:

Brochures are out and all did a great job. Touch a Truck and Camp

STW Community Center:

The plans for the playground equipment were on display, however after giving it much thought, Lauren wondered if it wasn't a better idea to utilize the monies set aside for that and combined with other available money, do a permanent fix of the courts at STW and Northford Park to make them available for more mixed use and activities. The members found this to be a very good idea since there is playground equipment at several other locations and great possibilities with mixed use options. The Courts at STW could be a good deal when planning the Summer Kidz Camp programs. Steve Torino made the motion, seconded by Michele Provencher to allocate the money for repair of the STW courts and the Northford Park basketball and tennis courts and it was approved unanimously.

Senior Center:

The popular Pizza Wars will take place again this year, the date being April 25th. Lauren was also considering programming some nighttime activities for the more active seniors. She said that in conjunction with Branford, lunches were delivered to some 30 homebound clients. To save on costs of food, she's considering going out to bid on food items used.

Town Holiday Tree on Augur Property:

The general thoughts concerning the lights on the tree were centered on the color, however the decision was made to keep it to the purple and white since those were the Town colors.

Public Comment:

Bill Savarino presented the plans for the special Vietnam War marker that will hopefully be approved by the Town Council and installed in time for the Memorial Day Parade. Though the number of members in the club are dwindling he's hoping to get enough volunteers to serve hot dogs and snacks at that time to keep more town people more involved

On the motion by Steve Torino, second by Victor Palma, the meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi, Clerk