

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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The Parks and Recreation Commission  
STW Community Center  
1332 Middletown Avenue, Northford, Ct. 06472  
Tuesday, June 27, 2017 - 6:00 PM

## Minutes

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

**Also Present:** Director Lauren Munro and Bill Savastrano, VFW.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Lynch at 6:00 P M.

The Minutes of April 25, 2017 were corrected to show that under ST Community Center the Courts would be a negative of funds between 16 and 54,000 and concerning the asphalt venders Lauren felt funds would be a minimum, not premium as stated. On a motion by Brian Lynch, second by John Onofrio, the Minutes were accepted.

There was no meeting May 23rd due to lack of quorum, therefore no Minutes for action.

## Parks and Fields:

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**Dog Park:** Although it is not quite finished, it is being used, however it is feared that without disposal receptacles, and no policing of the area, people might just leave their dog residue accumulating in plastic baggies which would become a problem. There is still a need for signage, however the Town wants all signage in Town to be uniform. Lauren said that Marilyn Modzelewski has taken on the job as coordinator of the Dog Park.

**Eagle Scout Projects:** Brian discussed the procedure for Eagle Scout program and will follow through with Scout Leaders who may not fully understand the process. Lauren requested ideas of future projects and handicap compatible picnic tables for the pavilion was recommended followed by Landscaping around the Town Christmas Tree; a Bocce Court and new wood guard rails at North Farms Park.

**Drones:** Lauren submitted a Drone Policy Survey of town throughout Connecticut which showed that few town had a policy in place and those that did for the most part prohibited them and the few that allowed them restricted them to certain areas with strict rules. Steve and Michelle are acquainted with the subject and explained that FFA rules are given when the drones are purchased and registered, such as hovering over people or tracking them which govern hobbyists. To be licensed you have to go through a special program and those people can fly anywhere under Federal Aviation regulations which supersede Town prohibitions, such as at Town Events. Lauren and Brian both expressed fear that if there was an accident on Town property that the Town would be held responsible, so Lauren was advised to ask the Town Attorney to look into responsibility and establishing policy concerning the Drone issue. A motion was made by Brian, seconded by Victor that Drones would be prohibited on Town property which was accepted unanimously.

**Updates:** The hole is filled in behind Stanley T and the tree has been removed at the football practice field and the fence is moved back. The Commission wants to make sure that the fence is put back at the practice football field.

### **Potato and Corn Festival:**

**Updates – Moving forward:** Interviews for a new Coordinator being held at this time. It was decided not to use Groupon this year. Lauren tried a fun project promoting the Festival; all you needed to do was address write an address on a potato and stamp it and it would go through the mail. She sent one to a friend in Carolina and it arrived intact without a blemish.

Senior Center is partnering with Pastry Fusion for potato donuts.

**Financial Numbers:** Results from last year's Potato Festival are in, copies of which were distributed to Commission members and were also sent to the Town council, who will be meeting in the middle of July. She has worked out the Scholarship Awards. Steve inquired if thought had been given to his suggestion that a special table or booth be set up to promote the Parks and Recreation, since it would be in their interest and at their own event. They could display the activities, trips, events and have signup sheets available right then. Lauren and Brian both thought it a good idea, except this year especially the committee is already at full capacity with duties and there would be no one available with enough experience and knowledge to do a proper presentation so it was put on hold for discussion for next year.

### **Town Sports Organizations:**

Lauren announced that Calvo was closed on June 17 and that the equipment has been stored away. The front field however has been left open.

Steve Torino took this opportunity to question that he noticed the lights being on in a field when no one was using it and other times lights were off when in use. Lauren said they were on timers and was controlled in a way that the lights remained on for a half hour prior to field use and a half hour after it was presumed that a game would be over. A call can be made to reset them when necessary. Steve was concerned that if a game was delayed due to rain or lightening it might not be resumed and have to be cancelled due to darkness, John Onofrio told him that some fields are left to one responsible individual with a key to turn the lights on and off. Lauren said she would talk to Fran to come to a resolution.

John then brought up the problem with the trash pickup, which Lauren was already aware of and had addressed with the company in charge more than once telling them that trash wasn't done on schedule or incomplete, but instead of offering to correct it, she was informed that she was wrong, that it had been done on schedule so nothing had been resolved. John explained that some barrels were only half emptied and others were left overflowing and, in some cases where a few had been emptied, others had not been touched several days in a row. He had photos on his cell phone to show as proof. It was suggested that she put the problem back into the Town's hands since it is they who chose and pay the service provider.

### **Program Review:**

**National Trail Days:** This event was quite successful, as was **Touch a Truck** since there was no rain as there had been last year.

**Class Updates:** Kids Kamp is doing very well with numbers back up and exceeding those from last year.

### **1599 Foxon Road:**

The Town has taken the property off the market and asked for Parks and Rec for their opinions

for use, however it was felt that there was no need for it at this time and the Town would benefit more if it was sent to Economic Development for discussion. Lauren said she would see to it that this was conveyed to the Council. Commission tabled no decisions at this point in time.

### **STW Community Center:**

Since postponing any action on the Playground project, it is necessary to set priorities as to use of the money. In meeting with Town Council, they would like to have all the work done at Northford Park be complete at the same time, both courts. Bids went out and returned with a low of \$138,575; but it was the consensus of the Commission that doing the courts for STW Community Center was the more important because it would not only improve the summer programs, but would also be a source of revenue as they could be rented out for pickle ball and rollerblade hockey, while possibly leaving the basketball court in Northford enough money to be done as well. The tennis courts might be given a few more seasons with just repairs and tackled at another time. With funds available being \$1435 and the additional \$76 it came up a bit short of covering the cost of doing both Northford and Stanley T. After discussion, a motion was made by John Onofrio, seconded by Michelle Provencher to set the courts at the Community Center as first priority and the Basketball Court in Northford to be done as well. The action was agreed to unanimously and Lauren was advised to go back to Town Council with their preferences.

### **Senior Center:**

Moving the Senior Picnic to the Community Center was well received especially with utilizing the tables instead of having to balance plates on their laps. They paired with the North Branford Rotary Club.

**Senior Appreciation Luncheon:** Very successful with over 100 in attendance.

**Summer Time Supper Club:** Well attended with some 20 using the occasion to enjoy an evening out as a group while eating at a local restaurant. They are mostly seniors we do not see during the daily activities, so it is a new active group.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Steve Torino the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P M

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi