

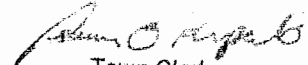
**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2022 FEB 23 PM 2: 59

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jay Bottalico called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.


Town Clerk

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Jay Bottalico, Richard DaSilva, Eileen Francolino, Thomas Gill, Anthony Kulowski, Matthew Kulowski, Ed Marchion, Nicole Pane, Don Woods

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Win-Johnson

Council Members Present: Tim Manke

Staff Members Present: Bill DeMaio, Superintendent, Sam Lostocco, Administrative Secretary, and Melissa Miller, Administrative Secretary.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Jay Bottalico asked the Board for nominations for the Chairman. Don Woods nominated Jay Bottalico for Chairman. Ed Marchion seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.
- Jay Bottalico nominated Don Woods for Vice-Chairman. Eileen Francolino seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.
- Jay Bottalico nominated Eileen Francolino for Secretary. Ed Marchion seconded the nomination. The nomination passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2022 MEETING

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to approve the minutes of the meeting on January 18, 2022. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to add an agenda item. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

Jay Bottalico welcomed Thomas Gill and Richard DaSilva to the Newington Parks and Recreation Board. Bill DeMaio also welcomed the two new Board members to the Parks and Recreation Board. He shared an open invitation to stop by his office to have a cup of coffee or to call him on the phone with any questions or for an orientation about the Parks and Recreation Department.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Pam Lavery – Fee Waiver Requests for Motorcycle Madness and the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza
Bill DeMaio reported that the Board has given Pam Lavery a waiver on fees for these events in the past.

b. Pam Lavery – Donation to the Newington Parks and Recreation Department
Bill DeMaio reported that in Pam Lavery's generosity for the waived fees, she has reciprocated by giving a donation of \$100.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department.

c. CT Brawlers – Fee Request for 2022-2023 Season
Bill DeMaio reported that this is the correspondence and that it will be under New Business.

d. Letter from Jim Roback – Donation
Bill DeMaio reported that he is an old high school buddy who is supporting the Newington Parks and Recreation Department.

e. Note from Pat Mahoney (GFWC)

Bill DeMaio reported that the GFWC members volunteer by planting flowers in front of CVS and weeding them. The group is having trouble watering the flowers. Bill DeMaio has agreed to send a part-time, 19-hour per week, Parks and Grounds staff member, Mr. Fontana, to water the flowers with his water truck. Bill DeMaio did look up the MDC, but it was too cost-prohibitive to put in an underground meter from the MDC.

VIII. SUMMARY REPORTS

The Monthly Report and Tree Warden Report for January 2022 were given to the Board to review. Bill DeMaio reported that there was no additional information that needed to be shared regarding the summary reports. Bill DeMaio shared that Tom Lapierre does a great job with the Parks staff.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. Water Lantern Festival – Letter of Agreement – September 10, 2022

Bill DeMaio reported that he brought this idea to the Board at the January 18, 2022 meeting. It has been a hugely successful event. Bill DeMaio has come back with the final details of the agreement, after continuing the negotiations. The price went up from \$1.50 per lantern to \$2.00 per lantern. The price went up \$500.00 in the rental fee. If things go well and the weather is good, the event should probably net around \$15,000.00 for the Department. Eileen Francolino shared with the new Board members that for events, such as this one, the Board members usually volunteer their time to help out, cutting down on labor costs and helping the Department raise money.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to approve the Water Lantern Festival Letter of Agreement for September 10, 2022. Richard DaSilva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Girls' Youth Lacrosse Tournament at Newington High School – June 22-24, 2022: Letter of Agreement

Bill DeMaio reported that at the January 18, 2022 Board meeting, the Board gave him opportunity to negotiate for this national lacrosse tournament for high school girls. It is something special when a national sports group from Maryland comes here two times in a row. You have to believe they are being treated fairly and well. The Department will probably net around \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 from this tournament. This group will employ many of our youth lacrosse members as scorekeepers, runners, and helpers. It is a win-win situation. Jay Bottalico asked if this was the second year of the lacrosse tournament. Bill DeMaio confirmed that the Memorial Day boys' tournament is the 2nd year and this girls' tournament is the 1st year.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to accept the Letter of Agreement for the Girls' High School National Lacrosse Tournament with Corrigan Sports on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 through Friday, June 24, 2022 at Newington High School and Clem Lemire. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pam Lavery – Fee Waiver Requests for Motorcycle Madness and the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza

Bill DeMaio reported this is done yearly. The fee waiver requests were done in two different letters by Pam Lavery this year, so this is confirming the details of her requests.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to authorize the Newington Parks and Recreation Department to waive the \$50.00 booth fee for the Motorcycle Madness event on June 11, 2022 and the \$90.00 non-profit organization/civic group fee for the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza on July 16, 2022. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. CT Brawlers – Fee Request for 2022-2023 Season

Bill DeMaio reported that there is a long history, six or seven years, with this team. He said he believes that Rick Bachand is going to be coaching football in Europe and his son is taking over the team. They are requesting that instead of \$700.00 for the non-resident rate, bringing the price down to \$350.00 for the resident rate. This Board has a rule that if you don't have 90% Newington residents on the adult teams, the non-resident rate applies. To Bill DeMaio's knowledge, the only Newington resident is the coach, the son. The players are from other towns. He went on to say that it is expensive to run the turf field, prepare, and clean-up, etc. It is up to the Board to accept or deny this request. Bill DeMaio asked the Board if they had any questions. Jay Bottalico shared how he saw the pictures provided last year of the mess that this team left after the games. Ed Marchion commented that they were pretty rough on the field. Eileen Francolino questioned the statement in the letter about Rick Bachand not letting other teams use the field. Bill DeMaio replied that he talked to the President of the league in Boston last year and found out that it is a courtesy to call the home team and say that other teams want to play on the field. Bill DeMaio stated his agreement with Eileen Francolino that Rick Bachand does not have

the authority to decide who can play on the field. Jay Bottalico asked who covers the insurance. Bill DeMaio replied that the league does have insurance and they name the Town of Newington as additionally insured. Don Woods added to the conversation that this team represents itself as a civic hero throughout the community, but they have proven to us time and time again that their words and actions fall far short when it comes to the use of our facilities. He went on to say that the Town of Newington has tried to work with this team in the past, but they do not qualify for residential rates. If we do it for this team, it would have to be done for other teams. Bill DeMaio added that if we did this for the adult football, we also have adult softball (18 teams), men's basketball (20 teams), women's softball, and adult ultimate frisbee. There are so many adult leagues that go by the 90% resident/non-resident policy. This would really be opening a can of worms for the Department. Jay Bottalico expressed his concern for the wear and tear of the turf field, which we've had for twelve years. He added that the turf field was never designed for adult play. It was for no higher than high school. Richard DaSilva asked what the cost was of maintenance and clean-up after the team left in previous seasons vs. the benefit of giving this team their fee request. Bill DeMaio responded that every game was different. Sometimes, it is one Parks staff member at 4 hours at time-and-a-half or double-time. Oftentimes, their games are on Saturday nights, so a Parks staff member would come in at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to clean up at double-time. This way, we are ready for the Youth Football League to start at 8:00 a.m. It could be a couple hundred dollars or it could be \$500.00. Jay Bottalico mentioned that it doesn't really cover the cost of clean-up time. Bill DeMaio responded that is a good statement. Eileen Francolino asked why the team is allowed to play there if they are not a residential team. Bill DeMaio responded that it is rented to them for income and there is some economic development value to having adult sports in your community. It is no different than men's baseball at Alumni Field and Legends Field. It is no different than softball at Churchill. Eileen Francolino shared that the softball teams are residents or people who at least work in the community. Bill DeMaio confirmed that if a team does not have 90% Newington residents, then they have to pay an additional fee. Each league is different for the non-resident fee. Ed Marchion asked if Bill DeMaio was not in favor of giving the adult football team a break. Bill DeMaio responded that as a taxpayer, a break should not be given to a team that does not invest in our community. People who live in Town should get the benefits and the assets of this community. It would cost us money and it doesn't make sense. Ed Marchion agreed.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Ed Marchion to deny the request from Rick Bachand, of the CT Brawlers, to charge him the resident rate of \$350.00 instead of the non-resident rate of \$700.00 for Clem Lemire Football Field during the 2022-2023 season. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Spring 2022 Program Guide:

Bill DeMaio reported there is a 24-page brochure that the entire staff did a wonderful job on. Special kudos to Hadeel Majdoub who puts the final product together. All of the office staff proofreads the Program Guide to make it as perfect as we can. The Spring 2022 Program Guide will be going out to Newington residents in the Life Magazine that is directly mailed to 13,500 households. We also put copies at a variety of places. Bill DeMaio brought to the Board's attention a new adult education program. There will be several adult programs, offered online with a company that we found through the CT Recreation and Parks Association, that will certify people to become paralegals, pharmacy techs, welders, plumbers, and electricians. It is a variety of adult education certifications. As a Department, we will get between 25-30% of the gross, depending on how many people sign up for each class. He went on to say that this is an experiment and he wanted to bring it to the Board's attention, since it was brand new. Jay Bottalico asked if there were any new costs that the Board should be aware of. Bill DeMaio responded that the fees are basically the same. The Spring 2022 Program Guide is a revenue generator and it also brings new kinds of people to the Parks and Recreation Department. Eileen Francolino asked how you get certified to be a plumber or a welder online. Bill DeMaio responded that he was not exactly sure, but they have a written test for each certification online and you have to show up at a school in CT to take a practical test.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Richard DaSilva to accept the Spring Program Guide, including programs, fees, and charges associated with each event and facility. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. New Scoreboard at Legends Field – Sponsored by Cedar Ridge Construction

Bill DeMaio reported that Marc Swiatowiec Jr. owns the company. He has been very active and very generous to the Department by sponsoring the train and the hay wagon rides at Christmas time. Bill DeMaio asked Mr. Swiatowiec Jr. if he would be interested in donating \$7,000.00, for five years of advertising, to have his company's name on the scoreboard. It would help us get a scoreboard for the Little League. He came forward and the additional money, a small amount, will come out of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). We are very thankful to Cedar Ridge Construction and we thank Mark Swiatowiec Jr. and his family. Don Woods asked a question, that has no reflection on any sponsor... Over five years a lot can happen and is there anything in the agreement that states if payment doesn't come, the name can

change? What is the option if anyone doesn't fulfill their obligation in full over the five years? Bill DeMaio acknowledged that is a good question. He replied that in this case, Mark Swiatowiec Jr. plans to pay in full; the entire \$7,000.00 right away. With the next agenda item, for Mike Turgeon, payment will be \$1,000.00 down, \$2,000.00 at Christmas, \$2,000.00 at Christmas, and \$2,000.00 at Christmas. He can pay it off earlier, if he so desires. Bill DeMaio went on to say that he didn't write anything in the agreement that he would take the sign down, but he assumes that would be his move if we had too. Ed Marchion asked if the Cedar Ridge Construction sign is removable? Bill DeMaio replied that the sign is removable. The sign is 2 ft. by 12 ft. and it hangs from the bottom of the scoreboard. Richard DaSilva asked if the sign is removable, even though it is not in the agreement. Bill DeMaio replied that he could adjust the wording in the agreement if the Board so desires. Bill DeMaio wanted to protect them the other way; to keep the sign up after five years, just in case nobody else comes forward or they don't do anything with the scoreboard. If the Board feels strongly about it, Bill DeMaio can put a sentence in the agreement stating what would happen if a company doesn't pay. Jay Bottalico asked if the sign sponsorship was only good for five years. Bill DeMaio confirmed that was correct; 5 years for the sign sponsorship. Jay Bottalico asked about the sign at Volunteer Field. Bill DeMaio replied that he believed the Little League made a four-year or five-year deal for that sign. Don Woods continued by saying that, in his opinion, there should be an option to protect ourselves in case we don't get paid. Bill DeMaio said he was sure he could do that, if the Board wanted him to do so. Richard DaSilva added to the conversation by saying that this is setting precedence for the future and you don't want to omit clauses that could cause legal issues. Jay Bottalico suggested rewriting the Letter of Agreement to cover that. Bill DeMaio agreed to do so. Thomas Gill asked who was buying the scoreboards. Bill DeMaio confirmed that the Department is buying the scoreboards through NEVCO. Thomas Gill asked if the specification would match the rest of the scoreboards. Bill DeMaio said that the scoreboards will be purchased from the same company. Jay Bottalico asked if both Letters of Agreement should be rewritten; for Cedar Ridge Construction and Turgeon Jewelers. Bill DeMaio replied that he will rewrite both Letters of Agreement. This goes with Richard DaSilva's point of being fair and consistent for the future. Bill DeMaio went on to say that he would not want to wait another month for a vote on this topic, since it takes 8 weeks from the time the scoreboards are ordered and he hopes to get them up in time for the spring. He offered to cc: the Board once the updated Letters of Agreement are sent to the two companies. Eileen Francolino asked why the Board of Education was mentioned in the letter for the Legends Scoreboard. Bill DeMaio replied that he thought he included it just in the Letter of Agreement for the soccer/lacrosse field at the high school. Eileen Francolino also asked about the Board of Education and the advertising of certain businesses. Bill DeMaio replied that in his conversations with the Superintendent of Newington Public Schools, she was clear that it would be a company free of alcohol, drugs, etc. Once the Superintendent of Newington Public Schools discussed that the company was Turgeon Jewelers, she was fine with presenting it to the Board for their approval. The Board of Education embraced it, since that scoreboard has been broken for 20 or so years. It hasn't been used for that long. Jay Bottalico asked if the scoreboards were costing more than \$7,000.00 each. Bill DeMaio shared that the high school scoreboard is approximately \$10,500.00 and the one at Legends Field is approximately \$12,500.00, since the scoreboard at Legends Field is 2 ft. wider. He went on to say that this is a state-of-the-art scoreboard. It is wireless. There is a little box that the coaches or scorekeepers can use and it can go over 1,000 feet. It going to be a pretty impressive scoreboard.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to accept the generous sponsorship from Cedar Ridge Construction and the terms outlined, as amended by the Board, in the Letter of Agreement for the Legends Baseball Field scoreboard. Matthew Kulowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. New Scoreboard at N.H.S. Lacrosse/Soccer Field – Sponsored by Turgeon Jewelers

Bill DeMaio reported it is the same thing and the Letter of Agreement will be amended.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to accept the generous sponsorship from Turgeon Jewelers and the terms outlined, as amended by the Board, in the Letter of Agreement for the Newington High School lacrosse and soccer scoreboard. Richard DaSilva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. “Newington Goes Country” Event at Mill Pond Park – June 9, 2022

Bill DeMaio reported that a Nashville recording artist, Jordan Oaks, was signed for this event. The Department is planning the event. There will be food trucks, a cowboy hat and boot contest, mechanical bull riding, potato sack races, as well as other ideas. He wanted to get the Board's approval for the event, as well as for the Department to sell beer and wine at the event. It will be another fundraiser towards the fireworks. Thomas Gill asked if the Town of Newington has a master calendar of events throughout the Town. He mentioned there have been some times that events have been double-booked on the same day. It is a thought he had before getting on the Board. Bill DeMaio responded that there is not one master calendar, but that the Parks and Recreation Department shares their calendar with anyone who wants it. The Department

prides itself on trying to cooperate and communicate with everyone in Town. There are a lot of things that go on, that you just can't avoid. For big, community-wide events, there is a form that goes around to Town Departments that has to be signed by the Department Heads. In Bill DeMaio's other jobs, he has tried to coordinate a master calendar, but it is not a simple task. Eileen Francolino shared that there has been conversation on Facebook regarding having a master calendar for the Town. Perhaps it is something that could eventually be put on the Town's website. Bill DeMaio continued to say that it is a lot of work. Jay Bottalico added that there are so many organizations in Town, that there is bound to be a scheduling conflict.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Nicole Pane to accept the "Newington Goes Country" special event on Thursday, June 9, 2022, featuring Nashville recording artist Jordan Oaks, at Mill Pond Park. In addition, allow the Newington Parks and Recreation Department to apply for a state liquor permit to sell refreshments at the event. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard DaSilva commented about the master calendar for the Town of Newington. He would be interested in meeting with Bill DeMaio to discuss what type of work and effort would go in to making that calendar. He would like to possibly help with this task. Bill DeMaio responded that he would be happy to discuss the topic with Richard DaSilva.

g. 150th Anniversary Committee – Reduced Rental Fee for Movie Night Event at the Mortensen Community Center Gymnasium on June 28, 2022

Eileen Francolino reported that as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration, the 150th Committee is planning a family-friendly event. They will be hosting a movie night, with a "Christmas in June" theme, and show the movie Elf. There will be refreshments and the kids can come to the event in their pajamas to make it fun for families to do together. The committee was looking for a fee waiver for the gym and the committee agreed to take on the expenses of any Parks and Recreation part-time employees who had to work the event. Bill DeMaio clarified that this is a separate 150th Committee event. Eileen Francolino asked about the \$120.00 fee reduction for the gym rental. Bill DeMaio responded that this was a separate event for the committee and they will be paying the cost of the staff. The committee would pay \$200.00 for the staff, instead of the \$320.00 rental fee.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Eileen Francolino that the 150th Anniversary Committee agrees to pay Parks and Recreation \$200.00 to cover the cost of labor for the movie night at the Mortensen Community Center held on June 28, 2022. Thomas Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Children's Day Carnival at Mill Pond Park on July 13-15, 2022 for Camp RECreate and other towns

Bill DeMaio reported that the idea is to maximize the use of the carnival company. A letter was sent out to CT Parks and Recreation Departments to have their summer camp kids come to the carnival. They would pay \$12.00 for 4-hours, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 14th. On Wednesday, July 13th, Newington's Summer Camp RECreate will get to use the carnival during the day, without the public being there. It will be enjoyable. They will receive a free ice cream and a free popcorn. This will be a way for the Department to raise additional revenue for the fireworks. Bill DeMaio shared that within 1.5 hours after sending out the letter, the Department already received a response from 9 towns. He thinks it is going to be a very positive response.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Matthew Kulowski to approve the Children's Day Carnival at Mill Pond Park on July 13-15, 2022 for Camp RECreate and other towns. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Economic Development Business Plan

Bill DeMaio reported that this is an opportunity to ask businesses, gas stations, restaurants, and small stores to give a percentage off of items and the Department will make an attractive flyer. It will make people happy about visiting Newington, CT. The businesses have been so good to our Department with sponsorships and this will be a way for the Department to give back to the businesses.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to endorse the Parks and Recreation Department recruiting business discounts and advertising them at the lacrosse tournaments, as outlined in the press release. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Life. Be in it. Extravaganza 40th Anniversary Celebration Board Member Event

Bill DeMaio reported this idea to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza. It is actually 41 years, but we did not have the event one year due to COVID-19. A draft of a news release was shared with the Board describing how The Kakery will make the largest cake in Newington's history. The cake will be on display, with 40 candles, on the Saturday of the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza. Every Newington Parks and Recreation Board member, since 1981 – present, will stand behind the cake and take a picture. The cake would have four different themes: an elephant because of an elephant tug-of-war vs. the firemen the first year, a carnival-theme, fireworks, and the Life. Be in it. cartoon family. Then, there would be a reception for the Board members with refreshments. They will be able to enjoy each other's company.

There have been 70 Board members that have served as volunteers on the Newington Parks and Recreation Board over 40 years. If they have passed away, a family member will be invited to represent them.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Thomas Gill to accept the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza 40th Anniversary Celebration Board Member Event. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. REPORTS

a. Mobile Veterans Memorial

Bill DeMaio reported that the Mobile Veterans Memorial was displayed in front of the Senior Center and is now on display on Fenn Road in front of Public Works. Next, with permission from Lou Jachimowicz, we would like to have it displayed in front of Paterson School. The Department already has 19 people signed up for next year; 5 new and 14 renewals. We are currently accepting registrations and it is \$15.00 for renewals and \$30.00 for new registrations. The American Legion, the All-Night Graduation Party, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other non-profit groups can sell the registrations and receive half of the money that is collected. Half of the money will go to their fundraising group and the other half will go to fireworks.

Nicole Pane shared that she was not at the last Board meeting, but did read the minutes of that meeting. She agreed with Eileen Francolino, and personally believes that it is not appropriate that anyone should have to pay for that, especially for a renewal. She feels that any money that goes towards it should really go to a veteran's charity. Jay Bottalico thanked Nicole Pane for sharing that.

b. Mill Pond – Clearing of the Banks

Bill DeMaio reported that the Parks and Grounds staff used a big boom, which was rented for a week, to clear the banks. Most people think that it looks beautiful. The Department is trying to restore it back to the way it was. We are trying to promote grass there around the banks, and cut it along the banks to the edge of the pond. It should be pretty nice. The Department worked closely with the Wetlands Commission and are very happy with the results.

c. Summer Concert Series at the Municipal Parking Lot and Mill Pond Park

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department was able to write some of the American Recovery Program grant money from the government and we added the Data-Mail money together, along with some other donations. We will be having about 32-33 concerts. The Department is working with the Kiwanis Club, who is doing a tag sale on Sundays, at the Municipal Parking Lot. In June, we will be doing a concert at the Municipal Parking Lot from 12:00-3:00 p.m. and in September, we will be doing the same thing with the concerts. On Saturday nights, in July and August, we will be doing concerts at the Municipal Parking Lot from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Hopefully, the businesses around there will benefit and people will buy lunch and dinner and enjoy themselves. There will be 25 picnic tables set up, as well as a small shelter set up for the band. On Thursday nights, in May, June, July, and half of August, we will have concerts at Mill Pond Park from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bill DeMaio went on to say we will have more concerts than any town in the state of CT. Newington residents will enjoy some live entertainment, at a high value.

d. Aquatics Report

Bill DeMaio reported swim lessons are filled at the Newington High School pool. Lap swimming and recreational swimming are down in numbers. The Department is trying to think of new ways of attracting people to the indoor pool. We tried Zumba, but the water was too cold for the age group that normally takes water aerobics/water Zumba. The indoor pool water has to be kept cool for competition, but it is the complete opposite for recreational swim. The Department will keep working on it. Eileen Francolino suggested water polo. Bill DeMaio responded that he will talk to Kelly Tinkham, Aquatics Director, about the idea.

e. Preschool Report

Bill DeMaio reported that the preschool program is going really well. The Department hired a new Preschool Director, Coral Richardson. She has 30 years of experience in preschool. She is a wealth of knowledge and knows everybody at the state level and the Office of Early Childhood. In her first week, she's already made some outstanding additions and changes. She will be meeting with all of the parents and families on this upcoming Tuesday night. She has Open Houses planned and is doing staff training. We are so pleased to have her in our Department. She is going to be a positive asset to the Town of Newington.

f. Elite Basketball Potential Rentals

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department is negotiating with Elite Basketball; nothing signed yet except for two tournaments in February. We are trying a long-range, one-year agreement, with some late-night practices after our programs are done, some weekends that are open, and a couple of summer camps. Elite Basketball has not signed

anything for that yet. Bill DeMaio shared that anyone who has been in the Mortensen Community Center has loved it and has really enjoyed it. People can't believe how beautiful the gym is. Eileen Francolino asked if Elite Basketball is a league that Newington kids play in. Bill DeMaio responded that Elite Basketball is being advertised through Newington Travel Basketball and Recreational Basketball. It is a high-level of basketball that Newington kids can participate in. They certainly want Newington kids in it.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jay Bottalico made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Miller

Melissa Miller