

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, July 21, 2020**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
NEWINGTON, CT

2020 JUL 29 PM 12:00

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jay Bottalico called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.


Town Clerk

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio, Jay Bottalico, Roberta Byron-Kolej, Jen Win-Johnson, Eileen Francolino, Anthony Kulowski, Ed Marchion

Board Members Absent: Matthew Kulowski, Nicole Pane, Mike Karanian

Council Members Absent: Carol Anest, Tim Manke

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 18, 2020

Motion: A motion was made by Don Woods to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Thank you note from Berni Rooney - Berni Rooney wrote a thank you note to the Parks and Recreation Department for maintaining the cul-de-sac that he lives on. He is very happy about how it has been maintained.
- b. Rotary Club final payment letter- The Rotary Club made their third and final donation towards the cost of the Picnic Pavilion at Churchill Park.
- c. Memorandum from Town Manager regarding Economic Development- Superintendent DeMaio was asked to serve on the Economic Development Committee. The Town Manager would like to ask a lot of businesses to come into Newington, lower taxes, and make sure that it is easy for people to build and come into Newington to benefit the town. The memorandum encourages town boards and commissions to cooperate together.
- d. Belanger-Goldberg Donation- The Belanger- Goldberg family donated \$100 towards camp scholarships because they were very happy with the programs that the department provided during the COVID-19 timeframe.

VII. SUMMARY REPORTS

Board members received reports to review. No further discussion was needed on the reports.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Email Votes

- i. Need for two representatives on the Building Committee for Mill Pond Pool, Jay Bottalico & Don Woods

The board members voted via email to select Jay and Don as representatives on the Building Committee for Mill Pond Pool. As a formality the Board confirmed the email vote with a vote during the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win-Johnson to nominate Jay Bottalico and Don Woods as representatives on the Building Committee for Mill Pond Pool. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Fee Waiver for Churchill Park Pavilion for Club Scout Pack 347

The Cub Scouts want to have a gathering and a park clean up at Churchill Park Pavilion and ask that the fee be waived to rent the pavilion. The cub scouts will clean the park and also help the department in various other ways such as watching the equipment set up for the Extravaganza overnight when it is set up. As a formality the Board confirmed the email vote with a vote during the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bill DeBlasio to waive the fee for the Churchill Park Pavilion for Pack 347. Jay Bottalico seconded the motion. The motion Passed unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. NRPA Proclamation – July is Recreation and Parks Month

The proclamation was voted on by the commission to be approved.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to approve the NRPA proclamation and forward it to the Town Council. Jay Bottalico seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. ADA 30th Anniversary Proclamation

The proclamation was voted on by the commission to be approved.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to approve the ADA proclamation and forward it to the Town Council. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Preschool Playground Area

Adjacent to Garfield Street there will be a walk way for the preschoolers. This will be a safe crosswalk area for them so that they can cross to a fenced in area that is 82 feet by 35 feet which is required by the State Department of Early Childhood. This will be completed after the Christmas break when the construction is completed and it is safer.

MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win- Johnson to approve the location of the Creative Playtime Preschool playground area at Mill Pond Park. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IIX. REPORTS

a. Town Hall Community Center Update (Moving In)

The Town Hall has been moving floor by floor into the new space. The town hall has been on schedule to be completed. There have been some minor delays due to COVID-19 mostly in the gym. The facility is still on budget and has not exceeded the guaranteed maximum price.

b. Mill Pond Pool Update

Mill Pond Pool was going to be fixed but it did not happen because it was not going to open due to COVID-19. There are over \$30,000 in cracks to be repaired.

Churchill Pool opened because it was in better shape than Mill Pond Pool. The pool is leaking so much water that the town has already had to fill the pool twice this year. The pool leaks about \$700 in water every day because they have past their life expectancy.

c. Private/ Public Sponsorship letter to Mandell Family

A letter was sent to the Mandell Family asking if they would want to partner with Parks and Recreation on a new indoor/outdoor aquatics facility at Mill Pond Park.

d. Private/ Public Sponsorship letter to Stew Leonard's

Stew Leonard's was sent a letter asking if they would want to partner with Parks and Recreation on a new indoor/outdoor aquatics facility at Mill Pond Park,

e. Churchill Pool Opening

Churchill Pool opened to the public. Every two hours the pool is cleaned. There are picnic tables that are socially distanced from each other. There are 70 people a day allowed at the pool. There was also a lap lane added for swimming pleasure.

f. AARP Fitness Center Update

The AARP fitness center is open at the Clem Lemire Complex but there was no grand opening due to COVID-19 right now.

g. Clem Lemire Playground Shade Structure

The planned shade structure was cut out of the budget. This structure was supposed to stop foul balls from Legends field from hitting anyone.

h. Recreational equipment at new Community Center

The Mortensen Community Center will have a great deal of new equipment to be used. They will be delivering recreational equipment such as two full size wrestling mats, two full cheerleading mats, two 70 inch monitors, two scoreboards, 8 badminton courts, 8 pickleball courts, 2 high school volleyball courts, 14 basketball hoops, and a batting cage.

i. Cornhole League

The Cornhole league is on Thursday nights. There are 26 teams, 4 people on each team. About 100 people also come to watch at the park each time and people have been able to socially distance.

j. Sports Camps

The department is offering 22 different sports camps, more days and times will be added for children to choose from due to their popularity.

k. Don King Outdoor Basketball League

A basketball league will be starting next week at Mill Pond on Tuesday nights.

l. High school outdoor Basketball league

A high school program will be starting at Martin Kellogg Middle School. There will be 2 Newington High school teams and 6 out of town teams.

m. 25 person limit on all indoor exercise programs at MCC

Zoom classes have been taking place for people as well as in person classes. The inside classes have a 25 person limit.

n. Concession Stand Open

The concession stand was opened and will be open for Thursday night concerts in the park. Saputo donated 150 gallons of ice cream to the stand.

o. Downtown Concerts

The Downtown Concerts started from 5-8pm in the municipal parking lot. Newington Masons donated the tent and Century 21 Stamm Realty donated \$500 towards entertainment.

p. Mill Pond Concerts

Mill Pond Park concerts will take place from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursdays now that larger gatherings are allowed.

q. Park Staff down 4 staff

The Parks staff is down 4 people due to various reasons. This is why some projects are behind at this time.

r. Tree Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Department trained to inventory trees around town. They identified the trees address, location, breast, height, diameter, age and condition of the tree. This will help the town to identify trees and a lengthy summary report will be completed. Trees at the fire houses, library, schools and other town buildings were inventoried as well. When someone calls about a tree issue the department will have all the history of that tree on their computer to process a work order.

s. Emmanuel Christian Soccer Irrigation

The funding for project was cut out of the budget. The department used the funding for Mill Pond Pool crack repair to complete the project. There are 13 zones and it is totally fenced in. The water is on a timer that can be controlled by phone.

t. Veterans Memorial Tour

The Veterans Memorial Float went around town on a 20 mile tour. The Parks Department built it and the Parks and Recreation staff help sell names and put it together. The Veterans Memorial stopped at 13 locations including schools. Next year, the float will try to make its way around Memorial Day weekend. The Veterans Memorial will make appearances at other locations as allowed due to COVID-19.

u. BYOC Party and Kindness Court with Happy Harry's

Happy Harry's donated wine and beer to the Bring Your Own Cheese event. There was a band and about 500 people present. Boxes were painted on the grass for people to sit in and appropriately social distance. Picnic tables were sanitized for people to use as other people left.

v. ERC Middle School new program idea

The Parks and Recreation Department is thinking about providing John Wallace and Martin Kellogg Middle School with after school programs 2:40-6pm. There would be a fee to attend to take care of snacks, staff, t-shirts, and equipment for the program. This may be put on hold until more information about school and COVID-19 come out.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
NONE

MOTION: Bill DeBlasio made a motion to cancel the August meeting. Jen Win Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Jen Win-Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Fontana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Fontana