

Willington Parks & Recreation Commission

Town Offices, 40 Old Farms Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279 (860) 487-3108

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 28th, 2020
Virtual – GoToMeeting - 7:00 PM

- I. **Call to order**
 - 7:05 p.m.
 - WPRC Members in attendance: Joe Colangelo, Mike Pinatti, Ed Taiman and Bill Bilyak
 - WPRC Members absent: Mike Iacampo, Rocco Petrella and Katherine St. Germain
 - Non-Members in attendance: Maureen Parsell
- II. **General discussion and open forum for anyone present. Joe Colangelo will allot time for discussion and individual requests to speak.**
 - No one in attendance.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - Minutes have been approved for August 31st.
- IV. **Director's Report**
 - Budget
 - Report was shared with the commission.
 - Facilities:
 - RRAC:
 - Basketball Court has been repaired and pickleball lines were painted.
 - Joe donated four irrigation boxes. DPW to install.
 - Lighting project: BOF met on 9/17 and funding was appropriated for our lighting project at RRAC. BOS met and called a Town Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 1 at River Road at 7:00 p.m. DPW is renting an excavator and is setting aside the 3rd week of October to install at least the concrete bases and piping, if approved. Joe is not sure how long it will take for the light poles to arrive.
 - TOB:
 - Tree blew down on back fence of baseball field. DPW to clean up the tree to see what kind of mending the fence needs.
 - Programs:
 - Projects-in-the-Park; we had another paint night on September 15th but was very cold. We have another night scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd. I met with Jim Harvey with the Willington Hill Fire Department and they have agreed to let us use their event hall. We probably won't hold another one in November and December due to the holidays.
 - Youth Basketball: I met with the other directors in our youth basketball league to discuss the upcoming season. We are all in the same boat. We cannot use our school's gymnasiums. We have decided that we will not hold any league play this winter. We will not go to Star Hill or another venue because we do not want to blend kids from surrounding towns. I am hoping to hold an outdoor clinic and 3v3 tournaments at River Road this fall/spring. We talked about holding a short season in the spring depending on

what COVID looks like at that point in time. I reached out to our coaches to see if they were interested in helping with some clinics. Waiting to hear back.

- o Yoga: We are still holding Yoga at Fenton Ruby. After this session, we will move indoors into the Library. We have been given permission to use the Community Room. We will be able to fit 5-8 participants in the room. We will also stream through Zoom. Pre-registration will be mandatory. First come first serve for in-person and can also participate at home through Zoom. Erika is ordering a web cam for our use. Meeting our Yoga Instructor at the Library to test out the web cam and streaming use.
- o Sand Volleyball: Trying a new program for Monday nights in the month of October. Starting Monday, October 5th.
- o Fitness classes start on Monday, October 5th at River Road Athletic Complex.
- o Pickleball: Starting this Wednesday, September 30th. Held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-12:00 through Friday, November 6th.
- o Self-Defense: Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at River Road Athletic Complex. 6-week session until October 21st. Hoping to run another session in the spring.
- o Willington Wire: finishing up this week and is scheduled to be sent out on Thursday, October 1st.
- o Kayaks – booked every weekend through the month of September. Repairs held. Had to buy a couple more paddles because of so much use.
- o Memorial Benches: River Road Bench has been installed. DPW did a great job! We still have another memorial bench to install at TOB for Kevin Legare. The family that donated the bench would like to wait to install until the Field Dedication happens.
- o Concerts-in-the-Park: Sunday, September 20th was our last concert of the season; James Barry. It was a perfect day for a concert-in-the-park! Concerts are now done for the season. All went well.
- o Lighting Project at RRAC: What type of switch will be used to turn the lights on/off and what time will we set for the lights to be functional. Ed Taiman suggests that we allow the lights to be functional 24 hours/day. Joe suggests putting the lights on a timer. Right now the park closes at dusk. We need to update the rules for the park. The months that I feel we need lights more than any other time is September, October, November, March and April. The sun sets in September at 6:30, October at 5:45, November at 4:30, March at 7:15 and April at 7:45 p.m. Mike Pinatti said that Olympic Field in Stafford has a timer for their lights and you have the ability to use the lights until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. It was suggested that we use a 60-minute timer and the ability to use the lights ends at 12:00 a.m. If there are issues with the lights being on until midnight, we will reevaluate at that time. The flagpole will be on a photocell and will automatically turn on at sunset and off at sunrise. Bill Bilyak wondered if the lights would reach a portion of the soccer field. Joe stated that the lights will not reach the soccer field. Maureen stated that we have discussed this in the past and decided that we would not put lights on the field but we would consider a turf field instead. The field can't handle more use. Bill stated that the field needs a layer of top soil. We should look at starting that project soon. Shut down half of the field, bring in top soil, seed and let it rest for one year. Do the same to the other half of the field the following year. Joe wondered if a soccer group could come up with some funding to help pay for a turf field. NEU has already invested into another property on River Road. We could use this field for flag football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, etc. Maureen to get quotes on a turf field so we have an idea of what it would cost.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT

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At 10:00 AM RLM