

**Town of Newington CIP Committee  
Conference Room L101, Town Hall  
Minutes of Monday, February 1, 2016 Meeting**

1. Maureen Klett called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call - Members Present:

M. Klett, Chairperson
B. DelBuono, Town Council
J. Marocchini, Town Council
J. Shulman, Board of Education
N. Petronio, Board of Education

Others Present:

T. Lane, Acting Town Manager
A. Harter, Director of Finance
L. Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director
W. Collins, Superintendent of Schools
L. Jachimowicz, School Chief Finance & Operations Officer
T. Molloy, Superintendent of Highways
S. Clark, Chief of Police
W. DeMaio, Parks & Recreation Superintendent

3. Public Participation –

Carol Grem, 58 Theodore St: She spoke in favor of the plan for Churchill Park. Thinks it's inexcusable that there is no handicap accessibility at that park now. We need to keep evolving. Lacrosse, soccer and other sports are always trying to find a field to practice or play on.

Eileen Francolino, 116 Lydall Rd: So many people will be able to use the renovated Churchill Park. Zero depth pool is great for seniors and others. Lazy River is for all abilities, including disabled.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Dr: She is all for change. First change has to be in the Town Hall. All these projects have to be looked at as a whole. Concerned about artificial turf at the high school that is in the current 5 year plan.

Walt Ciplinski, 35 Whiteside St: There are many needs in town. He moved here for the quality of life, school, parks & library. It's past time to make changes to Churchill and Mill Pond Parks. Adults, children and seniors deserve changes now.

Donna Sienko, 27 Berkshire Dr: Newington Lacrosse has grown tremendously to 188 players. Programs for ages from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They were able to grow due to practicing on the artificial turf at Clem Lemire. They don't have a home and are hoping for the new Churchill Park to be their home.

Jean Picklesimer, 97 Vincent Dr: Stopped bringing her disabled son to the pool because he can't handle the metal ladders in and out of the pool. He enjoyed a Lazy River ride on their vacation and would love to see one here. Anyone can enjoy it – age 2 to 92, disabled or not. Urges us to move forward with this plan.

Sue Goldman, 23 Burdon Lane: Not present but letter was read by J. Picklesimer and is included in minutes.

Motion was made by B. DelBuono to temporarily suspend Public Participation so that the Board of Education could present their projects since they have to leave at 6:45; seconded by N. Petronio and passed 5-0.

4. Old Business – Review of Proposed Projects

Dr. Collins presented the proposed projects for the Board of Education. He listed them in order of priority and gave a description of each one. S. Clark gave an explanation of the proposed Radio System Enhancement. T. Molloy explained the Landfill Conversion project and the need for funds in addition to the grant the town received. M. Klett requested a copy of the grant.

The Chair re-opened Public Participation:

Eric O'Neill, 47 Kirkham St: Infrastructure in town has been neglected. We have to make tough and bold decisions. He is in favor of changes to Churchill Park. We're falling behind in looking to the future for our parks. With these changes families would come to the park as a daycation. He is a basketball coach and sees great opportunity here in this plan.

Havital Miltz, 168 Nicholson St: Regarding the Landfill, she composts at her home and thinks the town should encourage composting if our landfill is full. It concerns her that the Board of Education puts things in 2 places – CIP request and BOE budget. If we will get \$7 million from the state for Anna Reynolds School Renovation project of \$14 million, why can't we just budget \$7 million instead of the entire \$14 million?

Curt Burns, 4 Bogart Ln; 100% in favor of Churchill Park renovation. He is volleyball coach at Newington High School and the sand volleyball included in the renovation would be awesome for them.

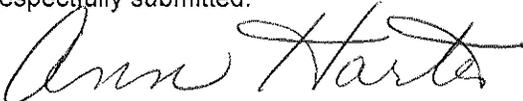
Phil Knowlton, 47 Bayberry Rd; In favor of Churchill Park renovation. He is a soccer coach and is in charge of scheduling teams for practice and games. Currently there are no lights on the fields which limits the available time. He has 600 kids and 180 volunteers in the soccer program. He is in favor of all sports sharing the fields.

The Chair resumed to the item of Review of Proposed Projects:

L. Jachimowicz explained the process of school building grant reimbursements and the requirement to appropriate the entire \$14 million for the Anna Reynolds Renovate as New project. He also clarified that the duplication of BOE request projects in both the CIP and operating budget is to insure the immediate need is covered in both proposals. W. DeMaio distributed the plan for a \$19 million renovation of Churchill Park and described the improvements. He further explained the request for \$250,000 for fiscal year 2016-17 is a budgetary estimate for the landscape architect to provide conceptual designs for local, state and federal environmental permits for the park renovation. He gave additional details for the departments other project requests. M. Klett asked what type of people he would like to see on a Building Committee for the Churchill Park Renovation. He would like to see people with knowledge of construction, concrete, playgrounds, environment, drainage, pools and/or synthetic turf fields.

5. Minutes from January 25, 2016 – J. Marocchini made a motion to accept the minutes; motion seconded by B. DelBuono. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Public Participation – Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She's having a hard time wrapping her mind around how we got into the shape we're in. Yet we're putting money away for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the turf field. There is a balance of \$192,558 in Park, Pool and Playfield Improvements, yet they're requesting another \$100,000. What are they doing with these funds? A few years ago \$100,000 extra was put into this account when the parking lot was finished. Areas along the brooks need to be maintained, yet no one is preparing for this.
7. Next Meeting – February 8, 2016 at 6:00 P.M
8. Motion to adjourn- J. Marocchini; Second- B. DelBuono- motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

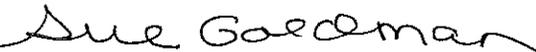


Ann Harter, Director of Finance

February 1, 2016

Dear Capital Improvements Committee,

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight but wish to express my support for the Churchill Park renovation. Churchill Park is the ideal property for a state of the art, accessible and inclusive recreation area for all of our citizens. The proposed design of accessible pathways for our special needs and aging citizens is a wonderful idea. A Lazy River, accessible pathways, pool house, grounds and equipment will be a project that will "lead the way" for Newington and its citizens. Our town is fortunate to have beautiful park property and a Parks and Recreation Department that values all of its participants. Let's get this idea to the Town Council as soon as possible to make this wonderful, inclusive, ground breaking idea a reality for our very special town.

Sue Goldman   
23 Burdon Lane  
Newington, CT 06111