

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, November 20, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Bill DeBlasio, Richard Khentigan, Jim Marocchini, Eileen Francolino, Don Woods, Mary Udice

Board Members Absent: Kathy Zolad, Robert Fresen, Jen Win-Johnson, Ed Marchion, Jeff Perillo, Superintendent Bruce Till

Staff: Karen Gallicchio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF October 16, 2012

James Marocchini made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The following are corrections to the Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2012

V. Monthly Report FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michelle Latch has been hired as part time coordinator of all special events.

The Duties of the Extravaganza will be split between Bruce, Michelle, Sharon, and Karen.

VI. Old Business

Registration will continue to be held at Dicks Sporting Goods Store in addition to coming to the Town Hall

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

MONTHLY REPORT

Eileen asked Karen if a short court (Tennis) was being put in along with three full courts at Newington High School. Karen mentioned that the lines will be modified for the different age groups and will be ready for spring 2013. The USTA grant was a construction grant, Michelle is working with tennis coaches at the high school to get some programs together and also trying to obtain a program grant.

Eileen mentioned Newington High School girls lost home field advantage because of snow on the field and was inquiring about how the Turf field could be cleared of the snow in the future. Don and Karen said the agreement states no equipment can go on the Turf field during the warranty period because it will void the warranty. Mary asked if shovels could be used. Clearing the field was never part of the arrangement because we did not want the expense. Don will check with Bruce, it might be possible to manually shovel the field with a plastic shovel in the future.

Eileen also talked to some of the mothers of the swim team and they would like to bring back swim team in summer to a Newington pool. Newington kids are going to Berlin to swim and they pay more than the Berlin kids do. They are looking for a local place for the swim team to swim in the summer. Don will mention this to Bruce to talk to Sharon and Michelle.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from David Nelson, of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses regarding the improvement to the appearance of the cemetery on the corner of Church Street and Kelsey Street. It was an Eagle Scout project and Mr. Nelson mentioned in the letter that it was outstanding job and looks great.

Thank you note from Pamela Lavery for all the help and support and also holding the annual Peter Lavery Memorial Motorcycle ride at Churchill Park.

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

EXTRAVAGANZA – MOHEGAN SUN CASINO FUNDRAISER

Sharon will be running the Fundraiser for the Extravaganza Fireworks. There will be a bus trip to Mohegan Sun Casino on February 23, 2013. Cost for the bus is \$770.00. It will be \$40 per person charge for the trip, approx. 57 people can go on the bus. Another bus can be hired if the first one fills up. Profit for the extravaganza is \$1500.00 after bus is paid for. Raffles can be held on the bus. Each ticket includes a dinner and gambling coupon. Press release for advertising the trip is in the new winter brochure.

DISPLAY CASE IN FRONT LOBBY OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Currently the display case is being exclusively used by the Girl Scouts to display projects. As of recent, inquiries have been made by other organizations to possibly use the display case for advertising events. To qualify for the space it has to be a non-profit organization in town and non-competing and approved by the department. Need to find out what arrangement was made with the girl scouts and look into possibly modifying the agreement with them and notify them before any changes are made. Karen will check with Bob Stanley to find out any information he may have about this and report this at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Bill DeBlasio and Jeff Perillo (who has since resigned as a rep.) were appointed to act as representatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission at the Town Council meetings for all phases of construction, site selection, etc., we will have full voting privileges on everything except budget. Next town council meeting they will vote for site selection. Site being looked into is "Scheme I" the soccer fields on Willard Avenue, which shows an outdoor pool that is not conclusive, standalone building (not sure of the size) and parking. This site is favored by Don, Bruce and the building committee. Looking for a replacement for Jeff Perillo, the new person appointed has to be a Republican board member of the commission. Jen Win-Johnson and Bob Fresen are the eligible republicans. Don is reviving the building committee of Bill, Kathy, Don, Ed and Jen to meet before the next board meeting to get updates from Bill. Town Council Meeting Update: Bill passed around different blueprints for the layout of the detached

community center at the favorable site for the standalone building which is at the aforementioned location on Willard Avenue. Also, fire commissioner pointed out that there is only one entrance and exit on the blueprint which could cause traffic problems if there was an emergency situation or big event being held at the center.

Don mentioned if cost came into play and had to go with the attached building they cannot add a pool. His argument to council was to consider a standalone community center because with the economy to scale it would add on another 2-3 million dollar expenditure to rebuild Mill Pond pool in addition to what will be spent for the community center therefore, would be better to have community center detached and consolidate the pools (Mill Pond and Church Hill which are both deteriorating and loosing excessive amounts of water every year) at the new center.

2012 – 2013 CAPITAL BUDGET

Cost estimates for Projects

Priority #1 Mill Pond Park:

Requesting a topographic survey of the entire property, because of the overall size of the park Bruce suggests aerial survey. Estimated fiscal year of this project is 2013-2014 and requesting \$35,000 for playscape, pool, bath house, splash park and field making the park ADA compliant.

Priority #2 Churchill Park

Requesting topographic survey of the entire property, because of the overall size of the park Bruce would also like an aerial survey done here as well. Estimated fiscal year of this project is 2014-2015 and requesting \$35,000 for fields, playscape, pool, bath house, splash park and making the park ADA Compliant.

Priority #3 Parks and playgrounds throughout the town including the schools

Estimated fiscal year of this project is 2013-2014 and requesting \$100,000 for wood fiber and park equipment. Last year the department only received \$25,000 for this project.

Priority #4 Parks and Recreation Churchill Park

Superintendent recommends replacements instead of repairs. The facility has lived out its useful life. The project is estimated to take place in fiscal year 2015-2016, requesting \$3,060,000 for Reconstruction of:

Pool 1.5 million dollars

(2) Tennis Courts \$120,000

(4) Basketball courts \$60,000

Splash Park \$500,000

Bath House \$500,000

(2) Pavilions \$60,000

Cost estimates for the planning, engineering and architectural cost \$110,000, Construction and materials \$2,680,000 and project contingency \$270,000.

Priority #5 Mill Pond Park

Facility has out lived its useful life. This project could possibly be included with the proposed community center. The project is estimated to take place in fiscal year 2015-2016, requesting \$2,540,000 for Reconstruction of:

Playscape/Poured Rubber \$250,000 grant was not awarded

Pool 1.5 million

Spray park \$500,00

Cost estimates for planning and engineering \$90,000, construction and materials \$2,250,000, project contingency \$200,000. No bath house was included in this budget.

Last year there was 16 million dollars put aside for community center with this new one they are trying to come in around 4 million. Architect suggested we should have 25,000 – 30,000 square feet to accommodate all the programs and we currently have 15,000 square feet. Karen mentioned that the larger facility would be the best way to keep all the programs under one roof.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Richard Khentigan to adjourn. Jim Marocchini seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm with a 6 - 0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay