

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, October 14, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jen Win-Johnson, Ken Leggo, Don Woods, Richard Khentigan

Board Members Absent: Robert Fresen, Kathy Zolad, Bill DeBlasio

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 9, 2014

Mary Udice made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Jim Barnicle, 62 Crestview Drive: Stated prior to this meeting he sent an email to the Town Council, Mayor, and Bruce, regarding replacement of the trees that once lined Crestview Drive. Mr. Barnicle stated that over the past few years diseased and healthy trees have been removed due to utility tree trimming and MDC street widening projects which have resulted in a loss of almost all of the street lined trees on Crestview and other neighboring streets as well. The objective of the residents of Crestview Drive is to replant new trees along the street line. They also request the Town Council implement an action plan to replace trees when old or diseased trees are removed and implement a conservative pruning policy with the utility company with trees that are planted at the homeowner's expense in the area between the road and the sidewalk. The residents of Crestview Drive are looking for discussion on this topic, is there a budget for this, along with stump removal.

Don Cosway, 66 Crestview Drive: Asked if the Tree Warden would know more about this issue and if this issue would be discussed a tonight's meeting.

Mady Kenny 53 Crestview Drive: Asked if Bruce Till would provide copies of the study done by DEEP so the residents of Crestview Drive have that information. She also requested that Jim Barnicle be informed the next time this subject will be discussed at a future meeting.

Michael Bonaiuto, 57 Crestview Drive: Stated that MDC put signs on nine to eleven trees, mostly healthy, that were taken down without discussion to the residents at the entrance to the Crestview Drive neighborhood. He feels that Crestview, Crestview Drive North, Northwood, Centerwood, and Southwood streets are supposed to be models to the downtown area. He feels that the streets within walking distance of the town center should be included in the beautification budget and that the street scape is important to the homeowner's property values. Without trees lining the streets the cars are now speeding down the road because they have a clear path way and this is also bringing down property values. He also stated he doesn't

necessarily want the town to plant new trees he just wants approval for the residents to be able to plant new trees in the tree belt area. He believes the trees that were removed were originally planted by the town.

Debbie Barnicle, 62 Crestview Drive: Asked if the stumps would be removed by the town.

Diana Krusell, 56 Crestview Drive: Asked if the stump is on the apron, it is on the town property could she have a stump grinder come in and grind the stump.

Ed Horan 35 Crestview: Stated he never lost power or had any issues during the storms over the past 20 years, prior to the tree removal.

In response to public participation:

Bruce received the email from Jim Barnicle, he requested the residents of Crestview attend tonight's meeting and bring this subject up to the Commission. Bruce stated he will be bringing this matter up for discussion at a future public works meeting. He has also mentioned to the Town Manager that the residents of Crestview would be coming to tonight's meeting and also would possibly be attending the Town Council meeting too. Bruce and the Town Manager are not aware of a tree policy for town, they are in discussion of taking a look at that and having the Town Council address this issue, the tree warden is also involved in this discussion. Bruce will try and answer some questions tonight and bring the commission up to speed on this subject. Bruce will also provide copies of the study done by DEEP to the Crestview Drive residents. Bruce will let the point person, Jim Barnicle when this matter will be discussed in at future meetings so he can attend. He will discuss this issue further regarding the stump removal and who is responsible. Bruce feels there needs to be a town wide policy on how this is handled and at some point may become a budget issue for the town. Don said he will do what he can to help the residents of Crestview but thinks it may take more than a couple meetings to resolve this issue and also recommended the Crestview Drive residents voice their concerns at the Town Council meeting.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

Correspondence: Letter from Jane Calderone regarding the Senior Center Garden Project, she was very happy with the way it turned out. She mentioned in the letter that the gardens were in good shape for the winter and was fortunate to have help from Mark, Steve and the staff and is looking forward to next year.

Monthly Report: Just into another season, summer was good. The brochure went out with all the new programs. Eileen mentioned a possibly getting a performer from American Idol for next year's Extravaganza. It hasn't come up in conversation with Bruce and the carnival person as of yet.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Community Center: Bruce passed around results from a telephone survey that was done after the referendum for the community center. The process now for the community center is to put focus groups together, those are being organized. Decision Point LLC will be conducting the focus groups. Bruce mentioned to the Commission that if they are or know of anyone that is interested in being a part of these focus groups to let him know. Mary Udice would like to be on

the focus group. There are interviews taking place for the new building committee in the next few days, the new building committee will be approved at the October 28th Town Council meeting. Parks and Recreation Commission will not have a seat on the new building committee; it will be filled with one Democratic council, one Republican council and five members of the public. Don asked if the focus groups will be a quick or a long process. Bruce mentioned the Town Manager said it should only be a few meetings. Eileen mentioned that in the Town Council meeting packet each group will meet three to four hours by November. Everything is starting from scratch for the Community Center, new Architect and Construction Manager, new design, and new Building Committee.

Mill Pond Pavilion: The landscaping is finished and everyone agreed it looks very nice. It is very attractive and will serve the community well through all the future concerts. Bruce thanked Andy for his generous donation for the new pavilion. Don was asking if there was any decision on the old Gazebo, Bruce is not moving it at this time, he was thinking about moving it to a neighborhood park. Bruce was thinking about possibly making some repairs to it and keeping it in its original spot. Eileen asked if the gazebo repairs could be an Eagle Scout project, which could be possible if contractors are willing to work with the scout. Ken said the response from two bands that had played there over the summer said it was great and the lighting was nice.

Chapel: Bids came in over budget. Bruce is working with Red who is part of the Engineering Department, he came in last week and has taken over Korpak's position. Bruce has had several meetings with him and met with the architect and contractor to work out a new number. Bruce recommended to the Town Manager that they rebid the job because the scope of work has changed so much. Bruce thinks his staff can work on the footing, foundation and excavating for the project. He will discuss that more before he does rebid the work. Eileen asked if the current chapel is still useable, Bruce said that it is. The area has been grubbed and hydroseeded, some trees have been taken down for now. Bruce is going to have his crew finish the landscaping after the addition is put on.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Crestview Drive Tree Planting:

Bruce has discussed this with the Public Works group the issues, concerns and how it will be addressed. Bruce would like to know where to plant the trees, who will be responsible for the planting, where will the money come from, trees have been taken down all over town so this will be a town wide issue not just for one street. Bruce will have the tree warden be a part of this discussion. It will be on the public works agenda next month and also the parks and recreation agenda. The town manager would like some direction from parks and recreation commission. A plan needs to be in order and a budget needs to be decided by the Town Council. Bruce mentioned that some residents want to plant their own trees, of course they can plant on their own property but most residents will wait to see what the town decides. Bruce is recommending that some kind of tree planting policy be made for the town. Don mentioned that in 1970's and 80's it was a requirement put out by the town that in new developments two hardwood trees be planted by the developer and at the developers cost in the homeowners front yard, not in the tree belt (area lining the street). Jim Barnicle (of Crestview Drive and also the representative for the residents of Crestview Drive) mentioned that trees they would like to see replaced are in the tree belt area. Jim Barnicle has noticed that along Main Street between Mountain View and the

center of town at least half dozen new trees have been planted in the last three to four years. Bruce mention only new trees that have been planted by the town are the new street scape near Market Square. Don mention Main Street is state property. Ed mentioned that in West Hartford he has planted trees for residents who have gotten permission from the town and were planted at the homeowner's expense. Jim Barnicle said that is what the residents of Crestview Drive would like to be able to do and would pay for the trees and to have them planted themselves. Don mention that the Maple decline was possibly from the salt that was being used in the winter on the roads and suggested to Jim that if he plans to replicate that look to choose a different type of tree. This issue will be back on the Parks and Recreation agenda for next month. Don would be happy to try and help move this issue along, but it might ultimately be in the Town Councils hands.

MDC Projects: The project in the Mill Pond Park area is going well. The MDC will be there for a while, the path around the pond is blocked at the moment but the work has to get done. They have done a good job with PR getting flyers and information out to the neighbors in the area. The MDC was also up near Young Farm and the area that was disturbed has now been put back.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Richard Khentigan. Ken Leggo seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay