

NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, January 21, 2020

2020 FEB 23 PM 12:18

  
Town Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Ed Marchion, Don Woods, Eileen Francolino, Bill DeBlasio, Jennifer Win-Johnson, Anthony Kulowski, Matthew Kulowski, Nicole Pane, Jay Bottalico, Mike Karanian

Board Members Absent: Roberta Byron-Kolej

Town Council Representatives: Carol Anest, Tim Maknke

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

**IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nicole Pane to nominate Jay Bottalico for Chairperson. Mike Karanian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Jay Bottalico to nominate Nicole Pane for Vice Chairperson. Mike Karanian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Anthony Kulowski to nominate Matthew Kulowski for Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to approve the minutes of November 19, 2019. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Carol Anest read a letter into the minutes from Rose Lyons of 46 Elton Drive. Rose wanted to point out some damages to sidewalks in town due to the snow being removed. Rose wanted to know what kinds of machinery are used to clear the snow and what can be done to prevent damages to create less work come spring. Rose also asked about the AARP FitLot grant and if the town attorney has to review this grant and any grant the town receives for approval.

Superintendent DeMaio reported that the department did not receive a specific piece of equipment called a trackless that would have helped them to better clear the sidewalks in town. When the ground is not frozen it is common to have some damages that will be fixed come spring. A lot of the damage has already been fixed. The town uses a variety of equipment to clear the snow depending on the type of storm such as plows, shovels, snow blowers, little tractors etc. The FitLot grant has been signed off on by the town attorney twice before it even came to the counsel.

## VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Pamela Lavery wrote a letter to the Board requesting a fee waiver for a booth at Motorcycle Madness, a fee waiver for a booth at the Extravaganza, and a fee waiver for Churchill Park Pavilions to hold the annual Peter J. Lavery Memorial Ride. A motion will be made in new business.

## VIII. SUMMARY REPORTS

- a. Monthly reports November 2019 and December 2019
- b. Tree warden reports November 2019 and December 2019

The board reviewed the reports. There was no discussion or questions.

## IX. OLD BUSINESS

### a. AARP Grant

The AARP Grant will allow the town to build a FitLot at Clem Lemiere next to a playground. The goal of the grant is to build an area that can be used intergenerationally by adults and children visiting the facility.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Meeting Dates and Times for 2020

The meeting dates and times for 2020 were reviewed by the board.

**MOTION: Nicole Pane made a motion to accept the meeting dates and times for 2020. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### b. Approval of Liquor Permits for special events

The board approved liquor permits for the events held throughout the summer season.

**MOTION: Jen Win-Johnson made a motion to have the Parks and Recreation Department apply for a liquor permit for the following events: Water Lantern Festival (April 25, 2020), Motorcycle Madness (May 21, 2020), St. Patrick's Day in the Park (June 11, 2020) and Life. Be in it. Extravaganza (July 15-18, 2020). Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### c. Waiver of Fees for 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Peter Lavery Memorial Ride

**MOTION: Nicole Pane made a motion to waive the fee (\$340) for Churchill Park Pavilions for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Peter J. Lavery Memorial Motorcycle Run, requested by Pamela Lavery on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Waive the fee (\$50) for a table at Motorcycle Madness on May 21, 2020. Waive the fee (\$50) for a booth at the Newington Extravaganza on July 18, 2020. So they can hand out information on the Peter J. Lavery Memorial Motorcycle Run. Ed Marchion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### d. National Recreation and Parks Association Walking Grant

Superintendent DeMaio reports that we have received a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association to hold walking programs for senior citizens. The walking programs will also utilize the exercise equipment at Clem Lemaire and Mill Pond Park.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win-Johnson to accept the National Recreation and Parks Association grant in cooperation with the Newington Senior and Disabled Center for a walking program. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Mill Pond Plans**

The Board reviewed a Mill Pond Renovation Plan. This is a high priority now that the new Town Hall is being built. The pool will be located towards Garfield Street along with a splash pad and a rubber surface for preschoolers. Everything will blend together as one big government center. The goal is to have the pool be large enough to host all swim lessons held during the summer between Churchill and Mill Pond. The old pool will be kept open as the new pool is being built so swim lessons can still take place. The current pools are in bad shape. The pools are widely used in the community. 17,000 picnic goers used the pavilions at Churchill Park last season as well as 21,000 visits to Mill Pond pool and 19,000 to Churchill pool.

**MOTION: Eileen Francolino made a motion to support the continued work on the master plan at Mill Pond Park. Jay Bottalico seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Churchill Park Plans**

The pool at Churchill Park also needs to be replaced. The Mill Pond plans will be given a higher priority for now due to the new Town Hall plans and the desire to have everything built in a government center style.

**g. Clem Lemire**

Memorial and Legends fields at Clem Lemire were renovated in house by the Parks Department for about \$25,000 per field which was a savings of over \$200,000 if it had been contracted out. The infields were replaced a new product called DuraEdge. Veteran's Little League field will need to be done next if time and money allow.

Superintendent DeMaio also shared that a new parks supervisor was hired. He plans to meet with all of the coaches to talk about maintaining the fields properly before the season.

**XI. REPORTS**

**a. Town Hall Community Center Update**

Last month's meeting was canceled and there is not a lot of new news to report at this time. Some money was put aside for winter conditions to keep the construction going. Everything is moving along and the next meeting is tomorrow evening.

**b. Night of Lights**

Thousands of residents showed up to the Night of Lights and it was a tremendous success. The businesses in the center of town reported they had great sales during the event. There were hay wagon rides, caroling, a confetti cannon and more.

**c. Basketball**

There are just under 1000 kids playing this year. The coaches and referees are doing a great job. All the schools are being used for games and practices.

**d. Budget Update**

The department met with the former town manager and the finance director about the budget. A meeting will be held with the new town manager to discuss as well. A CIP meeting will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. The department's priority is to have the CIP fund a new playground at Clem Lemire. The equipment there now is in bad shape and is becoming dangerous.

**e. Water Lantern Festival**

The Water Lantern Festival will be held again this year. The company usually doesn't come back to the same town twice. Since one in Newington last year was a great success they have decided to return. A dollar per sale will be given to a camp scholarship fund to help those who cannot afford summer camp. There were about 12,000 people in attendance last year at the event. The number of shuttle busses will be increased this year. The event will be held later in the month with the hopes of warmer weather. The event will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

**f. Parks, Grounds, and Cemetery Supervisor**

A new supervisor was hired, Clay Pedigo. He has golf course experience and has been with us for about 2 weeks now.

**g. Building a strong Community Awards**

There was a ceremony to recognize the recipients of the Building a Strong Community Awards. These awards are given to people who have supported the department in the previous year. They were give gift baskets to thank them for their generosity.

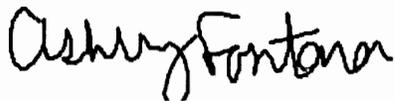
**XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NONE

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Bill DeBlasio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Marchion seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley Fontana