

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2022 MAR 25 PM 3: 30

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jay Bottalico called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

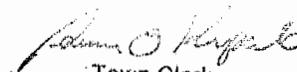
II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Jay Bottalico, Richard DaSilva, Billy DeBlasio, Eileen Francolino, Thomas Gill, Tim Hutvagner, Anthony Kulowski, Matthew Kulowski, Ed Marchion, and Don Woods

Board Members Absent: Nicole Pane

Council Members Present: Tim Manke

Staff Members Present: Bill DeMaio, Superintendent, Sam Lostocco, Administrative Secretary, and Melissa Miller, Administrative Secretary.


Town Clerk

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 15, 2022 MEETING

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to approve the minutes of the meeting on February 15, 2022. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Bill DeMaio asked Melissa Miller to share two additions to the agenda:

1. Tennis Agreement between the Bob Deane and the Town of Newington.
2. Agreement between the Newington Parks and Recreation Department and Tito's for the Department's upcoming events.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Billy DeBlasio to add two agenda items. Tim Hutvagner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Bill DeMaio reported that there was a nice letter written by Attorney Palermino. The letter thanked Clay Pedigo and the Parks and Grounds staff for their recent work on Centerwood Road, referred to in the letter as "Centerwood Nation." The Parks and Grounds staff removed unsightly bushes from the center island on Centerwood Road. The citizens are appreciative of the work that was done. Bill DeMaio publicly recognized Steve Winiarski and Joe Waluk as being two of our "superstars" at the Parks Division. The neighbors are going to chip in to purchase new plantings for the spring. It was a nice combined effort that worked out well.

VIII. SUMMARY REPORTS

The Monthly Report and Tree Warden Report for February 2022 were given to the Board to review. Bill DeMaio did not have any additional information to report at this time.

Eileen Francolino asked about the CT Brawlers. Bill DeMaio responded that since the Board voted to deny their request, the Department has not heard anything from them.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

NONE.

Thomas Gill had a few questions, as a new member of the Parks and Recreation Board. He has questions about how the Board is structured, what its charge is, and what we're here for. Bill DeMaio responded that he would be happy to meet

with Thomas Gill in person, or over the phone, to share some information with him about the Parks and Recreation Department and the Board. Bill DeMaio shared that the Ordinances are all online and that several Board members have years of experience on the Board and can share their thoughts with Thomas Gill.

Thomas Gill then asked if the Parks and Recreation Board had any plans for the Charter Revision. Bill DeMaio responded that the Parks and Recreation Board voted to suggest to the Charter Revision Committee to look at changing from the current eleven-member Board, down to seven members. Now, it is in the hands of the Charter Revision Committee. Thomas Gill asked how many members make up a quorum. Bill DeMaio answered that with an eleven-member committee, a quorum is six members. Eileen Francolino shared that the state ordinance says that if you go down to a seven-member board, it would be a five to two split. We would still need to have five members show up and it can be hard still. Tim Manke explained that at the Boards' direction, he put it in as a charge from the Town Council. They will be looking at the makeup of all of the Boards and Commissions; for size-wise. After some discussion, Don Woods asked Tim Manke when he expected the Charter Revision Committee to wrap up things. Would it be weeks...months? Tim Manke responded that the process would probably be months, not weeks. It just started and there is a whole process. The Town Council has to look at it and then there will be a public hearing. Tim Manke shared that the earliest it might be done is in June or July. That was his feeling. It depends on what the Charter Revision Committee looks at. Tim Manke shared that anyone can speak at the Town Council Meeting during the public participation portion of the meeting. The Charter specifically mentions how many people should be on each Board and Commission, in some cases. The make-up of the Parks and Recreation Board is part of the Charter. Some Boards are part of the Charter and some Boards are done by Ordinances.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. Concert Sponsor Agreement – Campbell Cooling LLC

Bill DeMaio reported that Michael Minelli is a 33-year-old man that graduated from Newington High School. The Department has a verbal agreement for him to come as the main featured artist at 8:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., prior to the fireworks at the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza on Saturday, July 16, 2022. In many people's opinions, this artist will draw the largest crowds we have ever seen at Mill Pond Park. Bill DeMaio went on to share some of Michael Minelli's accomplishments. The Department will have to get drum sets, a back-up band, and other things to make this a success. We have a concept and a verbal commitment from Michael Minelli. Bill DeMaio reported that he called his good friend, Jaime Campbell from Campbell Cooling, and he can't say enough good about him. Jaime Campbell is a community man who believes in Newington. He is going to sponsor \$3,500 as the stage sponsor/Michael Minelli sponsor.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Billy DeBlasio to accept a \$3,500 public/private partnership agreement with Campbell Cooling LLC to sponsor the Michael Minelli Concert at Mill Pond Park on Saturday, July 16, 2022, prior to the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza fireworks. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill DeMaio added that the Department asked Michael Minelli to make it family friendly with his choice of songs. The Department moved Shaded Soul, an unbelievable dance band, to a 5:30 p.m. start that night at Mill Pond Park. The entertainment value this year at the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza is going to be second to none. Richard DaSilva commented that he has listened to some of Michael Minelli's music and shared that it doesn't have profanity or vulgarity in it. He went on to say the music should be appropriate for the public here in Newington.

b. "Sundaes on Wednesday" Sponsor Agreement – Church of Christ Congregational

Bill DeMaio reported that Melanie Enfield, an unbelievably nice person, is the minister of Church of Christ Congregational. For the last five or six years, the Church has been sponsoring free ice cream sundaes for the people who come to the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza on Wednesday night. The Church of Christ Congregational is giving the Department \$1,000 towards the product and the advertising. Bill DeMaio strongly recommends this agreement.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Thomas Gill to accept a \$1,000 public/private partnership agreement with the Church of Christ Congregational for the "Sundaes on Wednesday" event on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at Mill Pond Park. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill DeMaio added that they bring a lot of volunteers from the Church to scoop out ice cream, along with 20 different toppings for the sundaes.

c. Mechanical Bull and Summer Cornhole Sponsor Agreement – The Bar on Cedar

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department is renting a mechanical bull; people will ride it and then fall off onto an inflatable mat. It is \$1,000 and Nick Gallicchio from The Bar on Cedar is going to sponsor it in return for advertisement. He is also going to sponsor the Adult Summer Cornhole League on Thursday nights at Mill Pond Park. Eileen Francolino

asked if there was any extra insurance needed for the mechanical bull. Bill DeMaio responded that the mechanical bull company has insurance and they name the Town additionally insured.

- **Motion:** A motion was made Eileen Francolino to accept at \$1,000 public/private partnership agreement with The Bar on Cedar to sponsor the Mechanical Bull at the Newington Goes Country Event on June 9, 2022 and the Summer Cornhole League at Mill Pond Park. Billy DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Newington Goes Country, Food Truck Friday, and Craft Beer Night Sponsor Agreement – The Flood Law Firm

Bill DeMaio reported that The Flood Law Firm, out of Middletown, came on last year as a new sponsor for the Department. Last year, they gave a \$2,500 sponsorship donation and this year, they are donating \$3,200. They are sponsoring a couple of extra events this year. Bill DeMaio went on to say that The Flood Law Firm was nominated for a Building a Strong Community Award last year.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to accept a \$3,200 public/private partnership agreement with The Flood Law Firm to sponsor the following events at Mill Pond Park: Newington Goes Country on Thursday, June 9, 2022, Food Truck Friday on Friday, June 10, 2022, and Craft Beer Night on Friday, July 15, 2022. Billy DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Carnival Agreement – Northeast Midways

Bill DeMaio reported that every year, for the past fifteen years or so, Northeast Midways has been providing a carnival service for the Department for the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza. This is the major fundraiser for the Department and for the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza. Bill DeMaio recommends it. He shared that the only change is that Northeast Midways set aside \$5,000 just in case we get a lot of rain in July again, to restore the grass. They stepped up to the plate last year and they bought the top soil; we did the work, but they bought the materials. Eileen Francolino asked if the agreement showed an increase in percentage for the Department. Bill DeMaio responded that it is the same as last year, but it had gone up. Tim Hutvagner asked about people having to pay cash for the carnival; is there any way that people could use a credit card or purchase tickets beforehand? Tim Hutvagner added that he waited 45 minutes in line last year to buy carnival tickets. Bill DeMaio replied that was an unbelievably crazy year and that we hadn't seen crowds like that buying carnival tickets before. We have a slow credit card system. We are working together with the IT Department to make it better. There is also an ATM machine for people to use at the carnival. At the time, last year, the ATM was broken. The ATM machine in the Mortensen Community Center went through \$10,000 in two hours. Bill DeMaio shared that he would have no problem at all using credit cards for payment in the future. A variety of connections are needed in order for the RecTrac computer software to work efficiently at that large of an event. Eileen Francolino asked if we could get a second ATM machine in the Town Hall. Bill DeMaio replied that he doubted it since not enough money is being made for transactions taking place during the year to make it worthwhile for the company. Billy DeBlasio asked about reaching out to one of the local banks. Bill DeMaio replied that the Department called everywhere and they wouldn't give the Department an ATM for the weekend. Thomas Gill suggested to use Go Net Speed for service, as a temporary solution. He has a good contact with Go Net Speed and will get some information for the Department and for IT. Billy DeMaio mentioned that Paul Boutot is the IT Director and it would need his approval for Go Net Speed.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Tim Hutvagner to accept the Northeast Midways agreement for the carnival and food trucks from Wednesday, July 13, 2022 to Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Mill Pond Park, as described in the distributed document. Billy DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Tennis Agreement with Bob Dean

Bill DeMaio reported that Bob Dean has been a contract service for the Department for many, many years. He opens the four clay tennis courts and four Har Tru tennis courts at Mill Pond Park. He maintains the tennis courts on a daily basis. There is a company that comes in to get the tennis courts ready the spring season. Bob Dean does the administration of the tennis program. The Department receives 23.5% of the revenue from the tennis program.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to accept the tennis agreement with Bob Dean and the Newington Parks and Recreation Department, as described in the distributed letter dated March 11, 2022. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Tito's Agreement

Bill DeMaio reported that Trantolo and Trantolo, the Department's Motorcycle Madness sponsor, has a gentleman who works for them who is a professional promoter of special events. He put Bill DeMaio in contact with a marketing person from Tito's and details are being worked out. The details will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Tito's will bring the drink mixers, seltzer, cups, ice, napkins, and the trained bartenders to serve the drinks. The Department will buy

it on consignment, and for the cost, and we make all of the profit, as long as it is a non-profit organization which we are. The profit will go towards the fireworks show. It promises to be a big win for the Department.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Ed Marchion to accept the concept of the Tito's agreement, subject to final detail changes. Billy DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. REPORTS

a. Spring Registration Statistics

Bill DeMaio asked Melissa Miller to share some of the spring registration statistics for the Department's programs. The following swim lesson sessions at Newington High School indoor pool have full registration: Preschool and Parent and semi-private swim lessons Levels 1, 2, and 3. The Creative Playtime Preschool Program already has 14 students enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year. The two toddler programs, run by Taylor Zerbe in the Parks and Recreation office, have great registration numbers: Mornin' Munchkins is full and Jumpin' Gym Daze has only one spot remaining. Three adult programs that have great numbers to report are: Zumba Gold (37 participants between the 2 classes), pickleball (17 participants), and T'ai Chi for Older Adults (27 participants between the 2 classes). The Department is proud to have Camp RECreate registration available online for the first time. Camp registration numbers, with registration just opening on March 2nd, are as follows: Kindergarten and 1st grade: 94, Grades 2-3: 68, Grades 4-5: 41, Grades 6-8: 15. That is a total of 218 registrations for Camp RECreate, so far. Sam Lostocco has started the Kindness Counts program for 2022 and there have already been 100 nominations. Melissa Miller has been overseeing the Mobile Veterans Memorial registration and there are currently 61 names submitted (12 new; 49 renewals). Churchill Park Pavilion rentals are open for the season and there are currently 22 rentals. There are 23 returning gardeners for the Community Gardens. Last year's gardeners have until the end of March to renew their garden plots. After that date, the Community Gardens registration opens up for new gardeners. It has been a busy office with registration and the Department is very happy with the successful numbers at this point in time. Bill DeMaio added that there is Early Bird special pricing, for camp registration and pool passes, to encourage people to register early. Bill DeMaio complimented Melissa Miller and Sam Lostocco for the outstanding work they do for the Department. Melissa Miller commented on Bill DeMaio's outstanding leadership. We have a great team in our Department right now.

b. Extravaganza Update

Bill DeMaio reported that the Life. Be in it. Extravaganza will be Wednesday, July 13, 2022 to Saturday, July 16, 2022. The Board idea to bring back the Board members over the past 40 years is getting some buzz. People are flying up to CT from several states and it is very exciting. The Kakery is going to bake the largest cake ever made for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. It is going to be a fun time at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, 2022. The band Dually Noted will sing "Happy Anniversary" and we will bring all of the Board members up to be recognized. Board members should sign up on our Department's computer system, RecTrac, to let us know that they plan to attend the event. Board members should indicate their t-shirt size when registering online. After taking a group picture, the Board members will be invited to the Beer and Wine Garden to reminisce about old days. There are 73 Board members and if someone has passed away, a family member can attend in their honor.

c. Preschool Grant

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department hired Coral Richardson from Portland, CT. She is unbelievable. Within, 3-4 weeks she applied for and received a grant from the State of CT Office of Early Childhood. Though the grants, they are going to come in and train the preschool staff on how to evaluate the students, work on their skill sets, and prepare them for kindergarten. It is so exciting to have someone who really knows the ins and outs of preschool programs. She has been doing this for about 30 years. She is really good at what she does, has a great personality, and a great way about supervising our staff members. We are very pleased to have her.

d. Parks and Grounds Staff Update

Bill DeMaio reported that for the first time in seven years, the Department has a full Parks and Grounds staff. We hired three new staff members and started each Monday, for the past three weeks. The new Parks and Grounds staff members are Brian Garrity, Michael Soucy, and Patrick Crown. The Parks and Grounds staff will be doing a lot of training and a lot of group work together. Bill DeMaio added that he couldn't be happier to have a full Parks and Grounds staff for the busy spring season. He also mentioned that Clay Pedigo is doing a great job as Parks Supervisor. The Parks staff are all doing a good job.

e. Youth Basketball Update

Bill DeMaio reported that with the brand-new gymnasium at the Mortensen Community Center, some youth basketball practices can now be held here, instead of in the school gymnasiums. The next two Saturdays are the playoff games and championship games for youth basketball. Bill DeMaio shared that it is so rewarding to see the kids playing basketball in

the new gymnasium, after all of the planning. The new Mortensen Community Center is everything the Board dreamt for and more. Joe Harvey, “the commissioner of basketball”, is the Recreation Supervisor who oversees the youth basketball program. He does a great job!

f. Elite Basketball Update

Bill DeMaio reported that Elite Basketball is a high-level AAU basketball group. They are sponsored by Under Armor. Elite Basketball is here for the next three months and will be paying the Department about \$10,000 for the three months. Bill DeMaio shared the quote, “If you build it, they will come.” He said that people who have come to the Mortensen Community Center want to come back. They love it!

g. Kings Lacrosse Tournament – October 16, 2022

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department is negotiating with Kings Lacrosse, out of Massachusetts, to have their tournament in Newington on October 16, 2022. They had been here for the National Lacrosse Tournament last Memorial Day and now they want to host their tournament here. They have used the fields at Avon Old Farms and Kingswood Oxford in the past for their tournament. Bill DeMaio added that they will be meeting with the representatives from Kings Lacrosse tomorrow, March 16, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the potential for the tournament. Sam Lostocco has worked hard during the negotiation process. The Soccer Club of Newington is going to stay off the Newington High School soccer fields on that date, but they will be able to use the Chester’s Concession Stand at Newington High School. This way, they can make money at the tournament. The Newington youth football teams will be scheduling away games on that date, in case it rains and we need to use the synthetic turf field at Clem Lemire for the lacrosse tournament. The Lucy Robbins Welles Library is doing a discount program with Newington restaurants that our Department will promote with the lacrosse players and their families who are coming to Newington for the tournament. Teams will be coming from all over the country and this will help to promote economic development for the Town of Newington. There will be approximately 100 lacrosse teams here and they will be staying in local hotels and buying food here in town. It is a win-win situation for the Town of Newington.

h. NHS Softball Update

Bill DeMaio reported that Stonehedge dropped in two seventy-thousand-pound dugouts, blue and gold, at the newly renovated Newington High School softball fields. This project is being completed with the help of the Board of Education. They are providing the dugouts, the electricity, and our Department is going to do the irrigation and the fields. As a team, with the Board of Education and the Parks and Recreation Department, everyone wins with two very professional fields at Newington High School. The fields can also be used by the youth softball program, after 5:30 p.m. There are sensor lights in the dugouts that will turn on when a team goes in or in case of vandals. They are also handicapped accessible. Eileen Francolino shared that there were some questions by students at Newington High School about the Booster Club paying for some of the project. Bill DeMaio responded that he was not aware of that. A portion of the project was paid for by the Board of Education.

i. Installation of Lights at Legends Field

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department has three light poles up. We have been waiting for 26 years to put up lights at a 90-ft. baseball field in Newington. It is very exciting! The dilemma is that the cost had to be split between two budget years. The next budget year is July 1st. The Department cannot get a purchase order written until July 1st. Bill DeMaio said the Department will get a Letter of Intent from Musco Lighting and once the budget gets passed, the Finance Director can write a letter saying that the budget was passed in April and we can get access to the money on July 1st. It takes twelve weeks to get the light poles manufactured and we don’t want to wait until September to get the lights going. Bill DeMaio added that everything is set, the electricity is done, everything is underground, and it will just have to be hooked up once it is all done. The project is coming along quite nicely. There will also be a brand-new scoreboard that is going to be spectacular. The controls for the lights will be wireless. Musco Lighting will turn the lights on and off and each coach will have an ID.

j. Municipal Parking Lot Pavilion

Bill DeMaio reported that a shelter was put up at the Municipal Parking Lot. It cost \$3,200 from Lowe’s. Last year, the Department went through four tents last season at a price of \$1,500 a piece. The Department’s goal is to put up a \$200,000 beautiful pavilion that is 66 ft. x 40 ft. with stamped concrete. In the meantime, this 20 ft. x 20 ft. shelter will protect the bands from sun/rain and will provide electricity. The picnic tables will be moved to the grass to provide a more park-like setting. The Parks Staff put it together and it came out quite nice. The concerts will start at the Municipal Parking Lot on the first Sunday in June.

k. Kindness Counts

Bill DeMaio reported that the Department has 100 nominations so far. If anyone wants to recommend a kind person in your neighborhood or a business, you can complete the Kindness Counts nomination form or complete it online through the Department's RecTrac system.

l. Mobile Veterans Memorial

Bill DeMaio reported that we currently have 61 name recognitions for this year's Mobile Veterans Memorial. The memorial has been moved all over town. It was on Fenn Road and at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center. The memorial is going to be at Deming Young Farm next and it will also be in the Memorial Day Parade this year. It will be getting a lot of attention.

m. Memorial Day Parade

Bill DeMaio reported that the Town of Newington will be having the Memorial Day Parade again this year. The Creative Playtime Preschool students will be riding on the train in the Memorial Day Parade. The Department will be giving away a couple hundred ice cream cones after the parade at the Mill Pond Park Concession Stand. This will get people to come and enjoy Mill Pond Park.

Jay Bottalico asked Bill DeMaio about the parking situation with the Lucy Robbins Welles Library. Bill DeMaio explained it is a public parking lot. There have been several discussions with Keith Chapman, Town Manager, regarding this topic. There will be times that this area is very crowded and people will want to park in the empty parking spaces there. Eileen Francolino commented about the parking needs on Election Day. Billy DeBlasio commented that the town probably needs another twenty handicapped parking spots to meet the needs of patrons. Bill DeMaio replied that they are going to be adding four handicapped parking spaces in front of the Mortensen Community Center this spring, as soon as the asphalt plants open. Tim Manke acknowledged that parking is a problem. That was part of the problem when the Town Hall was expanded to build a bigger gym. It is not going to get any easier. Bill DeMaio added that Keith Chapman suggested contacting the owner of OFI about overflow parking, since he seems quite cooperative and supportive of the Town. Tim Manke added that Town employees were parking at OFI during the construction of the new Town Hall and Community Center. That might be a solution. Thomas Gill mentioned the possibility of moving the school buses somewhere else and using that lot for public parking. Eileen Francolino added that when you look online, the library's overflow parking is the Town Hall parking lot and the Senior and Disabled Center parking lot. Tim Manke replied that we have to look at who owns the parking lot. The upper parking lot is owned by the Library Trustees, not the lower parking lot.

Jay Bottalico asked if the Board members had any additional questions, or anything they wanted to discuss, before the end of the meeting. Thomas Gill asked if there was a quick synopsis of the pool issues here in town. Bill DeMaio replied that both pools are about 60-65 years old. They have extended the life expectancy by 25 years. They are in deplorable condition and could collapse and close at any time. It cannot be guaranteed one way or another. Bill DeMaio shared that he uses whatever resources he has, and we fill cracks, and we hire companies to come in. We patch pipe holes because of the heaving, the pipes all break. We replaced drain pipes at \$30,000. The 12" I-beams all rotted out at the pool building at Churchill Park, so we had to replace those for \$29,000. Several years ago, there were 36 pipe holes at Churchill Pool. We fixed those. The Department spends about \$30,000 to \$50,000 every spring with crack repair and patch painting. It is a tough battle. Bill DeMaio continued by saying that nothing is handicapped accessible. We could be shut down at any time. It is not a good picture. If people want to keep going, he will keep going. We'll do what we have to do. Bill DeMaio gave credit to the Parks Staff for doing the job of trying to make it happen. Mill Pond Pool has five small residential filters, that someone put in about fifteen years ago, instead of one large commercial filter. The hot water heater just goes and we need hot water, per the state. We put in \$26,000 to replace a hot water heater two years ago. It's a tough, tough thing. The Mill Pond Pool is in the wrong location. The water table; we have hydrostatic pressure and have to put in hydrostatic valves to keep the pool from popping out of the ground. We've had hydrotesting done, all over Mill Pond Park. By the playground, if you dig down six inches, you hit water. The best place, the deepest place, we can go is about 5 ft. down by the preschool playground. That is where the Department is recommending to put a new pool. The pool will have to shut down and collapse, people will go crazy, parents will be upset, and then we will react according. That is Bill DeMaio's prediction. Jay Bottalico asked Don Woods if the Mill Pond Pool Committee has been broken up. Don Woods replied, that to the best of his knowledge, no. Bill DeMaio replied by saying that he was told that the committee is still in place and it was not going to be replaced; it was in existence before the Town Council made the permanent Building Committee. Tim Manke replied that the Mill Pond Pool Committee would have to be disbanded by the Town Council. Thomas Gill shared that there is talk of a private pool going in on the south end of town. Bill DeMaio asked Thomas Gill

if it was an indoor or an outdoor pool. Thomas Gill replied that as far as he knew, it was indoor. Bill DeMaio asked if it was in an apartment building. Thomas Gill replied no; privately owned. He then asked Bill DeMaio if someone was to do that publicly, is that something that would work for the Town of Newington? Bill DeMaio replied that his professional opinion about an indoor pool is that it would be a great feature to have, like a Cornerstone in West Hartford. He has traveled all over the country visiting indoor pool facilities. However, it would be a giant tax burden on the Town. They never make money; they lose money.

Billy DeBlasio asked Bill DeMaio if he ever heard anything about the Paige Bueckers filming that occurred at the Mortensen Community Center Gymnasium. Bill DeMaio replied that some of the Department staff saw a post on Instagram or TikTok. Newington wasn't mentioned in the post. Bill DeMaio informed the new Board members about the filming day in the Mortensen Community Center Gymnasium with Paige Bueckers from UCONN. She signed a basketball for the Department to raffle off to make money for our Youth Basketball Program. Gatorade gave the Department water bottles. We were told that Gatorade spent millions of dollars for the whole filming package with Paige Bueckers.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Billy DeBlasio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Miller

Melissa Miller