

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, September 15th, 2020**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT
2020 SEP 25 AM 10:12

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jay Bottalico called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.


Town Clerk

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio, Jay Bottalico, Jen Win-Johnson, Eileen Francolino, Ed Marchion

Board Members Absent: Matthew Kulowski, Nicole Pane, Mike Karanian, Roberta Byron-Kolej, Anthony Kulowski

Council Members Present: Carol Anest, Tim Manke

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF July 21, 2020

Motion: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you note from Rita and Gary Bernard for the ice cream sundae's we made for the Senior Center that were delivered to their members.

VII. SUMMARY REPORTS

- Monthly Report August 2020
- Tree Warden Report August 2020
 - Superintendent DeMaio reported that the town is still dealing with the trees that need to be cleaned up from the hurricane earlier in August.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- **CRPA Awards Nominations**
CRPA stands for the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association. Superintendent DeMaio wanted to nominate people from Newington to be recognized state wide by the organization. Newington Parks and Recreation would like to nominate Bill DeBlasio for the Public Service Award, Night of Lights for Program of Merit and Tony Palermino and family for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win-Johnson to approve the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association nominations to be submitted by the parks and Recreation Superintendent. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **How “CAN” I help Newington (bottle and can drive)**

A shed will be placed at Churchill Park in the stone parking lot with a sign on it. Each month a different non-profit organization will benefit from the cans collected. This program will help keep the parks clean.

MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win Johnson to accept the How “CAN” I help Newington bottle and can reimbursement program located at Churchill Park. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Part Time/Seasonal Pay Plan**

The Parks and Recreation Department has a seasonal pay plan every year for the part time and seasonal employees. This is updated every year for the seasonal jobs.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bill DeBlasio to approve the part time/seasonal pay plan primarily due to the minimum wage increase on September 1, 2020. Jen Win-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Mayors’ Ball (in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary Committee)**

The Town Manager asked Superintendent DeMaio to assist the 150th Anniversary Committee with programs that will involve the residents of Newington. The Parks and Rec department will be assisting with a few events with the 150th Anniversary Committee such as a parade, the Daffodil Bulb Distribution, parties in the park etc. The purpose of the Mayors’ ball is to recognize all former mayors but also to host the largest dinner dance under one roof in Newington.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for a state liquor permit and authorize serving alcohol in the Community Center for the Mayors’ Ball. Date to be determined due to COVID 19. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IIX. REPORTS

- **Town Hall/ Community Center Update**

The Town Hall/Community Center Committee had a meeting on September 2nd. Things are moving along and the project is close completion and still on budget. They have been working on punch list items, they had over 1000 but have narrowed it down to 70. The project is about 85% complete. Demolition of the old Town Hall should start on September 21st. They are hoping to totally finish the project by December 8th.

- **Mill Pond Park Renovation Update**

There is a 36 inch sewer main going down the path of Mill Pond Park so the department is looking to see what is underground at the park. Some things may need to be moved to accommodate this. The baseball field may be eliminated to allow for the splash pad to

have room. The board wanted to make sure that the high school could accommodate all their baseball teams without the use of the field at Mill Pond.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to table the vote until next month. Jen Win-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Dog Park Newspaper Article**

There was a newspaper article in Newington Life about putting in a dog park at Mill Pond. A resident living adjacent to Mill Pond Park would like to build a dog park near the tennis courts at Mill Pond. Superintendent DeMaio made suggestions that the dog park would be better suited at Deming Young Farm. Many Newington residents already bring their dogs for walks and socialization at that location. Mill Pond doesn't really work because it would be near the tennis courts and would be interruptive to the tennis players. In addition, that location is part of the Mill Pond Park master plan. That is one of the entrances to the propose nature walk. Lastly, it is in the upland review area of wetlands.

- **Daffodil Bulb Distribution (In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary Committee)**

Stonehedge donated 2500 bulbs at cost and donated 500 bags for distribution purposes. Families registered online to get five free bulbs to plant. There will be directions on how to plant them. The department also purchased 500 bulbs to plant all over government buildings around town. The pick-up date for families to get their bulbs is on Wednesday, September, 30th. This is part of a beautification town wide program, originated from the 150th Anniversary Committee.

- **Children's Halloween Party**

The children's Halloween party has been canceled due to the governor's guidelines currently in place.

- **Mill Pond and Churchill Park Pool Maintenance Update**

The department is working with the pool mechanic and other pool experts to hunt down the problems at Churchill pool. They have been working on this since they closed the pool. The pool has been filled up so they can determine where it is leaking. A camera was snaked into the piping to see if the leaking problem can be located so there is a process of elimination to determine the problem. The hope is to open at least one pool next summer and hopefully both of them.

- **Pool Attendance**

People registered online to use the pool for 2 hours at a time and then the pool would be cleaned. There were over 8,000 visits to the pool this summer within 6 weeks. Many seniors also used the pool and were very pleased that the pools were open this summer.

- **Pavilion Rentals**

There were not as many pavilion rentals as last year due to COVID 19 guidelines this summer.

- **Fall Program Guide**

The fall program guide went out but it is based on the COVID 19 restrictions. Less than 25 people inside are allowed currently for programs. The department will go by all the governor's guidelines for programs and keep the public updated.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Eileen Francolino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jen Win- Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Fontana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Fontana