

NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, October 20, 2020

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
2020 OCT 26 PM 1:09  
Town Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Jay Bottalico called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**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 September 15, 2020**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Don Woods to approve the minutes of September 15th. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NONE

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

**VII. SUMMARY REPORTS**

The Board was given the reports to view, there were no further questions.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- **CRPA Awards (Bill DeBlasio- Volunteer of the Year)**

Bill DeBlasio was selected Volunteer of the Year award at the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association awards. There is a luncheon banquet at Mohegan Sun for the award recipients to recognize them and their contributions. Normally, over 300 people attend this event.

- **Building a Strong Community Awards**

Every year Parks and Recreation nominates outstanding people and businesses who have helped the department in the past by donating time and money. This year's nominees were Tom Tallard, The Newington Masons, Don Woods, and AARP for all the work they have done to support the Parks and Recreation Department.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to support the Parks and Recreation’s Superintendents nominations for the 2020 “Building a Strong Community Award” and forward it to the Town Council. Jen Win-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**- AARP Grant**

There will be a new agreement signed with AARP. AARP has offered another \$14,000 of program money for the Parks and Recreation Department to offer exercise classes at Clem Lemire on their exercise equipment. The funding will be used the next three years in the spring and the fall. A certified instructor will be hired to teach the classes. They would also help to advertise the programs to the public. This will provide 54 exercises classes per year for the next three years.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Jen Win-Johnson to accept the addendum to the Grant from AARP for the FitLot outdoor fitness park at the Clem Lemire Sports Complex. Don Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. REPORTS**

**- Town Hall/ Community Center Update**

The last meeting was on September 30th. The total budget for the project as of then was \$30,473,764.08. There is still a remaining \$290,000 in contingency. The project is 88% complete. The demolition has begun on the old Town Hall already as well. There was some surplus with the project and the project is in good shape. The community center has begun to be utilized under the Governors and Health Directors guidelines. 16 high school basketball teams play on Friday nights from all over Central CT. There have also been art classes, dance classes, and exercises classes taking place as well. There is a concession stand that will be opening after covid.

**- Volunteer Baseball Field**

The CIP account was cut down this year during the budget process. There wasn’t enough money for a new playground at Beachwood park. The money was used to fix up the pools in the meantime. \$12,000 of Duraedge was ordered for Volunteer field. The project was done in house by the grounds department to save the department money. The field was relevelled and groomed. 5,000 square feet of sod was ordered as well to be laid on the field. The field will be ready to be used in the spring by little league.

**- Mill Pond Pool**

Jay Bottalico and Don Woods are on the Mill Pond Pool committee. A geo tech company is being hired to survey 30 feet underground. Another surveying company needs to be hired to plot out the park’s boundaries. TLB is needed to relocate the bath house. For now the project includes the pool, the splash pad, to fill in the old pool and preliminary work for the bandstand.

**- Tree Report**

The consultant forrester from Yale is working on finishing up the Tree Report and it should be ready to be presented soon. About 1,400 trees on the streets and another 1000 in the parks (three times that amount in park and open space forests) were surveyed. This will give us a good plan for the future for the tree program. Once completed it will be adopted by the Board.

- **Basketball Program**

Under the guidelines of the Governor and the Health Director the Parks and Recreation department will try to move forward with youth basketball. There will be no use of the school gyms but the double gyms will be utilized in the community center. There will be no weekday practices. There will just be games on the weekends so that the children can still play. As of right now, 25 players including coaches and 1 parent per child will be allowed for a total of 50 people. There will be 15 minutes between each game to allow for cleaning. The plan will be fluid for now depending on how things go and any changes to the guidelines.

- **High School Pool**

There was a little mix up about the use of the pool. It was determined that Newington Swim Club does fall under the umbrella of Newington Parks and Recreation. The benefit is that they fall under the town's insurance, they get use of the departments equipment, and use of the departments lifeguards. Newington Swim Club starts November 9th under all the covid guidelines.

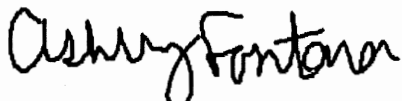
**XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**NONE**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Bill DeBlasio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley Fontana