

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE YOUTH
CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Paul Fracasse, Ira Kushner, David Veleber,
Mike O'Donnell, Patrick Duffy and Karen Bertoni

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Guest Present: Bob Else

Absent: David Veleber

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2011 MEETING

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the October 5, 2011 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bob Else presented maps donated from the town and discussed in detail what he wants done at Mixville Park.

Mr. Else said there have been improvements to the park since last year. He said he met with Joe Michelangelo and Suzanne Simione and they are who provided the map to him to bring to the meeting.

Mr. Else detailed how long he has been involved in his interests in Mixville Park and said he helped build the ski slope years ago and the pavilion. His roots go way back as far as Mixville is concerned. He explained at one time he was in charge of the life guards. Presently, he trains dogs competitively and would like to be able to bring the dogs to Mixville to use for training too. He said he knows there could be more Eagle scouts projects done there. A trail could be made in the woods to connect to the Blue Trail which would give people a chance to get closer to the water. He said he would like the brush cleared away from around the pond and pointed out on

the map how he would like little islands to stick out towards the water so people could walk out on them and go fishing. Mr. Else said the goal is to clear the silt away so other opportunities could present themselves. Opening the sides to the pond would be beneficial.

At 7:10 P.M. Dave Veleber arrived.

For the dog purposes, it would be beneficial to put land on the sides to get to the water if the brush is cleared yearly. Mr. Else suggested removing the brush off the bank and build a walkway to mow. He said if you were sitting in the pavilion you could look down into the pond, presently, you can't see anything because of the brush.

Mr. Else suggested when stocking of the fish occurs that holes be dug for the person that stocks the fish. In the holes you would put large rocks so the fish have a place to hide. If the fish have places to hide, they would stay longer but presently they are disappearing.

At 7:15 P.M. Patrick Duffy arrived.

Mr. Else told the members there are all different species of birds at Mixville. He spotted at least 50 Mallard ducks there today.

Mr. Else talked about the variety of fish you could catch at Mixville years ago.

Mr. Nankin agreed and said there is a lot of silt.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned when the last time Mixville was dredged?

Mr. Veleber questioned if the road that they discussed could act as a silt dam?

Mr. Else replied yes, you could walk over the road to fish. They are building a bypass. He suggested why not build it and put something in front of it to control it.

Mr. Nankin said that would require a permit from the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Ceccolini said he would have to talk to Joe Michelangelo regarding this idea. Mr. Michelangelo has a budget for dredging. Mr. Ceccolini told Mr. Else that a Scout group has approached him in regards to cutting the trail that he is talking about.

Mr. Ceccolini said the walkway between the upper and lower ponds was the project that an Eagle Scout just completed and he did a great job.

Mr. Nankin said if there are no ripples in the bottom of the pond then there is little to no movement of the water. Mr. Else said the fish are just not there.

Mr. Nankin requested a copy of the map for future use. Mr. Else said he would leave his map behind for Park & Rec.

Mr. Else said hopefully they will put screens in there. As the water is drained for the dredging the fish will move but there aren't many fish to begin with. Mr. Else said he is excited for the possibilities. Mr. Else said he would like to see land, water, land, water, as where specified on the map.

Ms. Bertoni arrived at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Else finished his presentation and left the meeting.

Mr. Veleber said he doesn't know too much about Mixville. Mr. Ceccolini said the northern pond is where everyone swims and Mr. Else was talking about making that area more user-friendly.

Mr. O'Donnell said the trail ideas sound like good ideas.

Mr. Nankin said presently people walking the trail are out of eyesight and we have to maintain safety. Mr. Nankin said we do have a limited crew and limited amount of money so unfortunately changes would probably have to be made piece by piece. Mixville would take more time to mow than it does now.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested whatever can be done now when they dredge Mixville should be done now.

Ms. Bertoni questioned if we could ask the high school students to create an eco system at Mixville for the fish, etc.? Mr. Nankin thought this was a great idea.

COUNCIL LIAISON

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Ceccolini said he received communications from Ron Gagliardi regarding installing a bench at Mixville for Judge Oberst.

MOTION: Ms. Bertoni made a motion to allow the bench to be installed at Mixville in the honor of Judge Oberst.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin explained to the Commission that a book is coming out regarding the linear trail and Lock 12. There is a small part about the trail that was a canal and last week they took pictures of P&R's entire staff. Tony Ruggerio will illustrate it from the pictures. Everyone was in costume with tools. A famous artist from Cheshire, John Kensett, portrays himself as a young John Kensett and joins the people in building the canal.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin announced the bubble would not be going up in December.

Mr. Ceccolini said the bubble should arrive here by the 2nd or 3rd week in January. Four to five good weather days are needed to put the bubble up. The blower will be here at the same time.

Mr. Duffy questioned how long it would take to get the pool warmed up?

Mr. Ceccolini responded the concrete is repaired with some minor things that have to happen. The pool should be warmed up and ready to use approximately a week after the bubble goes up.

Mr. Nankin said the time frame is around mid-January.

Mr. Veleber asked if snow on the ground would alter what is planned. Mr. Ceccolini replied no, that's okay.

Mr. Nankin said we are getting a state-of-the-art bubble and blower; there have been some code changes.

Mr. Ceccolini said one major code change is when we use recirculated air we have to treat that air that is recirculated. We are going to have to add dehumidification. The State of CT adheres to strict codes.

Summer Concert Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini told the Commission that P&R needs 3 or 4 sponsors for the concerts for next summer. He suggested the members try and get \$1,000 to \$2,000 per concert.

Mr. Duffy said maybe St. Mary's Hospital would be interested. He will check with them.

Mr. Nankin suggested possibly Midstate.

Mr. Ceccolini informed there will not be a summer theatre program. The next 2 summers the high school is conducting a program. Mr. Ceccolini said we could move a couple of concerts in July and August.

Mr. Duffy suggested putting the sponsors online, in a brochure or in the paper for advertisement. It was discussed to have a banner at the concert saying that the summer series concert was sponsored by

Mr. Veleber said he needs an idea for what type of band should perform.

Mr. Ceccolini said police would be needed at the concerts and more park guys also.

2012 Meeting Dates

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the 2012 meeting dates with the exception of moving the July 4, 2012 meeting date to July 11, 2012.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: All were in favor of the vote, the vote passed unanimously.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the group for the dog park has raised \$10,000. The Council's Planning Committee told the group to come back when they have all the money. Someone has come forward to pay for the rest of the fence that is needed for the dog park. The fundraiser that was held in October had very little attendance because of the snow storm,

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said the only thing he has to share is that the wreaths are on the town hall. The Commission will plant in the spring around the boxes on the corner spot of Route 10 where they are working now.

Mr. Ceccolini said the sidewalks have been replaced and the boxes were supposed to be flush with the ground.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ceccolini told the Commission to begin thinking about a Recreation Person of the Year for the award.

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the grooming of the fields has been completed. Two park guys have been working with Public Works assisting with the brush issues in town from the storm.

Mr. Duffy questioned if something would be brought in for the huge piles of brush? Mr. Ceccolini responded a tub grinder will come in and make a pile of woodchips.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if the town could use the woodchips?

Mr. Ceccolini replied that we could not use it because we could only have approved playground chips on the playgrounds.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested using the woodchips on the paths at Mixville Park.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said on-line registration starts next Monday. When spring registration arrives you can sign up from your homes 24 hours a day online.

Mr. Ceccolini said basketball began last weekend and winter programs have also started.

Mr. Ceccolini said the head life guard position at the pool has been filled. We have an excellent addition to the staff.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Nankin thanked Ms. Bertoni for all the holiday goodies she supplied and for this past year. He wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year.

Mr. Veleber said his wife has given birth to their 4th baby daughter. He said the Sugar Plum Tea ballet on Sunday was fun.

Mr. Kushner wished everyone a happy, safe holiday.

Mr. Duffy and Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year.

Ms. Bertoni thanked Mr. Ceccolini for him and his team that do a wonderful job and work very hard. Happy holidays to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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