

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PARKS
GARAGE, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Patrick Duffy, Dave Veleber, Ira Kushner
and Mike O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present: Peter Talbot

Absent: Paul Fracasse and Karen Bertoni

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Nankin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the September 11, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed 4 to 1. The one is an abstention by Mr. Veleber because he
was absent for the September meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot informed the Commission the Capital budget has been approved. He said there is
money available for Mixville Park and for the pool roof. He said there is \$3.2 million for the
tension membrane for the pool facility. Mr. Talbot talked about the linear trail extension and
said it would be from West Main Street to Jarvis.

Mr. Duffy asked about the section of the linear trail from Cornwall to West Main Street.

Mr. Ceccolini said that section is coming after this section is completed. The town is actively
working with Dalton.

Mr. Duffy said Dalton withdrew the application for the driveway.

Mr. Nankin said without prejudice it was withdrawn but it can be brought back.

Mr. Ceccolini said the State of CT is dealing with Dalton.

Mr. Talbot said \$22,000 was allotted from the gift account for the dog park at the September meeting.

Mr. Nankin asked what P&R is getting for vehicles?

Mr. Ceccolini replied P&R is getting a truck to replace Brian Blair's truck; a pick-up with a plow and possibly a trailer. Brian has the biggest college crew so a crew cab would be great for him. Mr. Ceccolini said he hopes to get a V-plow. The V-plow is used for parking lots and whenever we have to plow and do sidewalks. We do not do roads but it would be helpful for use on the trail. He said the guys are very careful plowing lots now because of the sight lights.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin did not have any communications to share.

Mr. Ceccolini had a letter from Mary Ellen Bailey of North Haven dated July 26, 2013 in regards to her brother, Robert A. Bailey, who won the contest in 1975 or 1976 to name the Lock 12 Historical Park as its present name. He passed away in 1990. He was a volunteer fireman and a Lieutenant. She would like to have him honored by a park bench at the park site. She feels he should be honored.

Mr. Ceccolini said the price of a park bench is \$1,450. He said he contacted her and she wants to the Town to provide the bench.

Mr. Duffy asked how we would pay for the bench. He asked what if other people want the same thing.

Mr. Nankin said he doesn't think P&R should cover the cost of the bench. He said he would love to do it but can't do it for everyone.

Mr. Veleber said he named the park. It's not going to happen for everyone, it's unique to him vs. to anyone else.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested maybe asking the Fire Department for their help. He said he would tell her that we don't fund memorial benches and let her know.

Pool

Mr. Veleber questioned the fireworks display at Bartlem Park after the Fall Festival with the tension membrane installed if it is approved. Mr. Ceccolini said it is being looked into. Sheila is in contact with someone and this is being looked into. He referred to the Olympics that has a tension membrane and still has an extravagant fireworks display.

Mr. Nankin asked when the work would begin if the election passes.

Mr. Ceccolini said it would be built in the spring and be up at the end of May beginning of June. The hope is it would be ready for summer.

Mr. Nankin questioned if the membrane passes in November does this still have to go out to bid. Mr. O'Donnell replied yes.

Mr. Ceccolini said from the now until next May the facility would be closed.

Mr. O'Donnell asked what if the tension membrane fails for the election.

Mr. Ceccolini said they would use the insurance money and talk to the Town Council regarding a bubble.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if there is any chance in keeping Sheila if the membrane does not pass. Mr. Ceccolini said that he's fairly confident that P&R would be able to keep her on staff.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the fence has been ordered for the dog park. A work party is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, to get the fencing up. That weekend will not be open to use but that is when the process will start.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how long it would take to put the fence up. Mr. Ceccolini responded that most of the installation would be done that day. The pieces from the two fields will take some time. The fence will sit on the ground. Mr. Ceccolini said someone questioned the handicap parking so we may have to make a few paved spots with a brick or entry way for a wheel chair.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said the vaults will start anytime soon. He said Paul removed most of the plants.

Mr. Nankin said Gateway Park is looking good.

Mr. Veleber said he was surprised to see that they didn't take that much from the garden. Mr. Ceccolini said they removed a tree.

Mr. Duffy asked if this is for a fire truck to make a right hand turn. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes. He said Maple Avenue has a pull-off for the maintenance trucks.

Mr. Ceccolini said they are going to take the tops of the vaults off and put plywood in. They will be flush to the ground. The vaults would be level to the ground with brick pavers all around.

Mr. Duffy asked if they are concerned with the ground level water. Mr. Ceccolini said right now they are up one foot.

Mr. O'Donnell said they would probably get a bench with planters. He suggested putting a water line into the planters so every time the sprinklers goes on it would drip into the plants. He said they are trying to get uniform planters that match on West Main Street.

Mr. Duffy asked if the planters would break when the frost settles in. Mr. O'Donnell said there would be sleeves inside so it isn't against the planters.

Mr. Ceccolini said the planter on West Main Street was mentioned that it blocks views. (This was Mr. Duffy's concern from last month's meeting).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that tree work was done at Cheshire Park. Trees were cleared that were loaded with poison ivy and roots that were tangled at Mixville Park. Total Tree Care did the work. Trees also went bad at Lock 12.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission there will be an article in the Cheshire Herald regarding an upcoming Eagle Scout project. They have a lot of projects to be done. An Eagle Scout built the swim platform at Mixville Park. Lock 12 had a handicap ramp rebuilt this year. Also, a retaining wall was done at Dodd and there are two projects pending: benches by the Medal of Honor classroom and drainage around the Community Garden in the back of the gardens at Bartlem Park. The Eagle Scout will run a curtain drain in the back.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Mixville ties into the dredging project a little bit. The plan would be to raise the height of the baseball field. A curtain drain rests between the volleyball court and the road and the field still gets soaked. If the field is brought up 1.5 feet this could solve the drainage problem. The field is part of the 100-year floodplain. We would have to go back to the Corps of Engineers. We cannot tie the two projects together because of the floodplain.

Mr. Ceccolini said part of the hill is going to have baggies on it. The sludgy stuff goes into the water and onto the field. They are hoping to catch the sludgy stuff into the bags and let it dry out then remove the bags. That is the plan right now.

Mr. Nankin said they would have to provide proper disposal of the silt. This is up to the Corps of Engineers. He said it probably has a high bacteria count.

Mr. Duffy asked about the geese at Mixville. Mr. Ceccolini said they are pretty much non-existent. He said the goose guy is still active at Mixville. He is there 4 to 6 days a week. He has a regular routine.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the men's softball team is down to 9 to 10 leagues; it used to be 20-30 leagues. A lot of the teams are going to play at complexes. There is interest in a professional kickball league at Bartlem.

The Fall programs are out except the pool. Mr. Ceccolini said he asked to do swimming at the Academy but they said no.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Veleber said Bell A Gio is open and full tonight.

Mr. Duffy said Mr. Bailey was in 5th grade when he named the Lock 12 Historical Park. Hats off to him.

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission the bridge at 691 was named after Myron Verner.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Veleber 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 8:05 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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