CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flat.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2010
MOTION by Mr. Duffy; seconded by Mr. Fracasse.

MOVED that the minutes of March 3, 2010 be approved subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Discussion
Page 3 – Mr. Duffy said he asked about there being two questions on the June 22, 2010 referendum for the pool enclosure, and his question is unclear in the record of the minutes.

Chairman Nankin stated that there could have been two questions on the referendum – one for the pool building structure and one just on the pool.

VOTE The corrected minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

COUNCIL LIAISON
Councilor Ruocco was not in attendance at the meeting; there was no report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Nankin reported there were no communications received this month.

POOL DISCUSSION – Mr. Nankin stated that it is uncertain where the pool is going at this point in time. He has heard that the bubble has two years of life left.
Mr. Ceccolini explained that the bubble has at least two years of life left, and it could be longer. This information comes from Mike Roche whose company takes down and installs the bubble each year. Mr. Roche looked at the condition of the bubble lining, and advised it is deteriorating, although the outside of the bubble is okay. The bubble could be relined, taking it down in the spring, packaging it up to be sent to Florida where a new lining can be installed. The relined bubble would be returned in September to be reinstalled. Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that relining the bubble is the least costly way to go, using the same size and dimensions without changing anything under the bubble. With a new bubble there would be a new support system required and this increases the costs. The bubble is dropped down to the base, two tunnels are built, and the area of pressured concrete is reduced in the area where the moisture gets in. With a new bubble the Town crews could do the installation and taking down of the bubble each year.

At the present time the Town spends $50,000 annually for taking down and reinstalling the bubble, including equipment to do the work. Mr. Ceccolini said a cable system would still be needed to support the bubble. The existing cable system is very heavy, and with a change of bubble there is the opportunity to get a new support system, which would add to the costs. He noted that the Town would have to make some decisions. After the referendum defeat he spoke with Town Manager Milone about getting a new bubble into the capital budget at a cost of about $500,000. This is a conservative figure with a new inflation system. There would be loss of wall space and reduced bleacher space. There would be no effect on the leisure pool, but the kiddie pool would be lost for the winter season. Also, with a reduction in deck space there would be a limited area for the birthday parties. The wall would have to be repainted with closure of the pool for a week. For the concession stand electric work the pool would have to be closed for three hours, and closing the pool at night will have additional costs. Mr. Ceccolini is trying to get CL&P to come in at 6 a.m. and have the electrical work done by 10 a.m.

With the current hot summer season, Mr. Ceccolini reported that the pool is going great, is very crowded, and many non-residents are taking advantage of the pool. He informed the Commission that in a packet of post cards mailed to households there was a discount or free pass card for the community pool. Cheshire is the first municipality to have a card in the marketing packet. The numbers at the pool are very big, with the facility only closing for thunderstorms. In the capital budget for FY 2011-12 there is $500,000 for the new bubble for the pool.

Chairman Nankin noted that the cost to reline the bubble would have to be under the $350,000 referendum limit, and the lowest cost estimate has been $100,000.

Mr. Ceccolini explained that we do not want to lose too much deck space, and a new bubble would be easier to install and take down, would be have better insulation and R factors, and would have a better inflation system.
At last month’s meeting Mr. Duffy thought that Councilor Ruocco said that something could be done, without a referendum, for emergency infrastructure repairs at the pool.

If the cost is under $350,000, Chairman Nankin said there is no referendum.

Mr. Ceccolini stated that in the capital budget, any item over $350,000, must go to referendum. After the recent defeat of the referendum for the new pool infrastructure, the Town could do a relining project at a cost lower than $350,000.

It was explained by Chairman Nankin that a project, which is over $350,000, cannot be broken into two projects, doing one each year. For Bartlem Park the Town purchased 4 or 5 individual pieces of land, and it was one project.

Chairman Nankin reported he received an e-mail from Doug Levens in which he said he wanted to meet with Mr. Nankin before the July meeting. Mr. Levens wants to have a separate Pool Commission formed. Mr. Nankin met with Director Ceccolini on this issue, and he informed the Commission that setting up such a commission is not within the purview of the Parks and Rec Commission. The formation of such a commission must come from the Town Council, and Mr. Nankin is not sure he wants the Parks and Rec Commission out of the equation. He will respond to Mr. Levens, and at the September or October meeting the matter will be on the agenda.

Mr. Fracasse stated that he has heard rumors about privatizing the pool.

When the pool was first started, Mr. Nankin said that the YMCA wanted to run the pool facility, but their interest waned. He has not heard of any private groups coming forward to operate the pool. The Town would need a very successful organization with a good track record.

With privatizing the pool, Mr. Ceccolini said it would take all the full time people with Town benefits out of the picture. Part timers would replace them, with no benefits, and the rates at the pool would be increased.

According to Chairman Nankin the supporters of the pool structure worked hard, and after losing, they got a defeatist attitude. He does not see the Town losing the pool. He commented on the Town subsidizing the Library and Senior Center, and noted that the pool is subsidized at a lower cost than these facilities.

**AUGUST MEETING**

MOTION by Mr. Trifone; seconded by Mr. Pulisicano.

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission cancel the August 2010 meeting and reconvene in September 2010.
VOTE  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

PROGRAM RATES
Mr. Ceccolini explained that he went before the Town Council with the department budget during the budget process. The Council is looking for cuts and revenues, and it has been a few years since there was an increase in the programs rates. With a rate of $5 per program there would be a revenue increase of between $15,000 and $20,000. The Council liked this idea and added this revenue to the department budget.

A copy of the proposed rate increases for 2010-2011 was submitted to the Commission.

When the rates were raised two years ago, Mr. Ceccolini said it was a disaster. People were not signing up for programs. Now, the programs have good numbers of participants. The thought with the proposed rates was to increase program rates, not pool seasonal rates. Mr. Ceccolini is unsure if the timing is right to increase the pool rates after the defeat of the recent referendum. After the rate increase two years ago, Mr. Ceccolini met with Town Manager Milone and the rates were brought back to their original basis.

The idea of the $1.00 days at the pool was discussed, and Mr. Nankin said this is usually done for the first three days after school closes. The possibility of having $1.00 days on very hot days for senior citizens only was raised by Mr. Nankin. This would get them to the pool facility and then they might be interested in joining the pool. The $1.00 days for Seniors could be posted at the Senior Center and the Library, and could generate more revenue. He said the Commission should also think about other groups which could be targeted for these dollar days.

Mr. Duffy asked about the percentage of out of town residents who use the Cheshire pool, and the idea of increasing only these pool rates.

At the present time, out of town people are paying double the resident daily rate, and Mr. Ceccolini does not think we can go higher than that rate.

In looking at the program rates, Mr. Pulisciano suggested increasing the cost of a birthday party by $10.

With an increase for lessons, exercise participants, and birthday parties, Mr. Ceccolini said there is another $11,500 generated in revenue. These increases cannot be imposed this fiscal year, but one year out, since these programs are already in place for this year.
Chairman Nankin said we must look one year out when the economy will be better than it is now. The swim teams would be informed of the increases for the next year.

Mr. Ceccolini reported that with a $5 increase per participant in a program the revenue generated would be about $25,000. This year’s revenue is projected at $400,000 and it will be just a little over this amount. He noted that these program numbers and pool numbers are conservative.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Trifone; seconded by Mr. Duffy.

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission accept the increase for the FY 2010-201 program rates with the concept to look at the team programs in September; and, to leave the pool seasonal and daily rates under their current status.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

WEST MAIN STREET “STREETSCAPE” COMMITTEE
No report.

DOG PARK
E-mails have been received from Town residents regarding the status of the proposed dog park. At this time, Mr. Nankin said this project is semi-stalled. There have been discussions about parking for the dog park at Arts Place. The concern for Arts Place is the dog park using spaces needed for this facility. After discussions with PW Director Michaelangelo and Mr. Ceccolini, it was suggested that the supporters of the dog park raise more money, use the back area for parking (with pavers), and they would need another $20,000. The idea of crushed stone for this parking area was also suggested. Mr. Nankin’s observation is that it is hard to raise money with small fund raisers, and the group should undertake larger fund raising events (art auction, wine tasting party, etc.). It is unlikely the Town Council will budge on funding this dog park.

At this time the supporters are stagnant on fund raising and Mr. Ceccolini commented on the fact that there are people out there pushing for money for the high school turf field.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested the idea of memorial bricks as a fund raiser, with the dog or family name imprinted on the bricks.

For the high school turf project, Mr. Trifone stated the costs per brick are $100, $250, and $500, and the higher cost bricks are the best sellers.
Mr. Ceccolini will invite the dog park people to meet with the Commission at a meeting in the Fall.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Trifone reported that a question was raised at the last meeting about the weeds which separate the new 90 foot diamond from the neighbors. Kids are going into neighboring properties to retrieve balls. The question is who owns this property. The idea of a snow fence was discussed by the commission to divide the properties.

Mr. Ceccolini said he would look at the site and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Trifone commented on the Beautification Commission being very pleased with the planters at Town Hall which were funded by the Parks and Rec Commission. The installation done by Paul Fitzsimmons was a nice job.

Stop & Shop is changing their logo and Mr. Trifone said their new signs must be approved by the Beautification Commission.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Park Status – Mr. Ceccolini reported on the Quinnipiac Park Field, and his meeting with the soccer groups on the closing down of one field for four weeks for seeding and other work. The soccer group will help with the costs of this work. He noted that Lacrosse and CYB have assisted with projects at Bartlem Park. With Lacrosse becoming a huge sport in Town, they will need more fields.

The football league plays at Bartlem Park, Cheshire Park and the high school, and they want a home field, with lines. The group is requesting use of Quinnipiac Field. With acquisition of the Chapman property some of this area could be devoted to youth football programs. This is a matter to be endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Town. There would be lights on this complex, shut off by 9 p.m., but surrounding property owners do not believe the accuracy of this shut off time. Last year the soccer group had portable lights, and this cannot be done again without approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Recreation Programs – Summer camps have started and they are going well. The sports camps have two sessions, a.m. and p.m.; they have lower registration this year; and this is a reflection of the economy. Mr. Ceccolini said some kids are playing elite soccer and AAU baseball so this affects sports camp registrations. There will be a $5 per participant increase in camp fees next year. Some changes were made to the camp programs this year, with 6th grade camp being held at Bartlem Park, and 1st grade camp either a full day at Bartlem or half day at Cheshire Park.
Capital Budget – the five year capital budget includes trucks in each year for the Parks and Rec Department; the Linear Trail and pool bubble are also in this budget; last year the department received one new piece of equipment through the capital budget; and there is a shortage of one tractor at this time. Mr. Ceccolini advised that the department’s equipment is in good shape and that Town Manager Milone will include a replacement vehicle in this year’s budget.

With regard to his department vehicle, Mr. Ceccolini reported that he uses it for Park and Rec business. If a new vehicle is approved it should be pickup truck with enclosed cargo area because he carries equipment in the vehicle all the time.

Mixville Update – The new playground is almost completely installed and will open in a few days; the repairs to Mixville have been very nice; the neighbors are very pleased with the improvements to the park. With regard to the visitors who were at the park last year holding services, Mr. Ceccolini advised that since the fees were instituted, undesirable visitors no longer come to the park.

**COMMISSIONER’S FORUM**

Mr. Nankin informed the Commissioners that Gov. Rell was at a ceremony on the Lock 12 site to announce she is requesting $11.5 million from the Bonding Commission. Out of this funding $5.5 million will be given to towns and cities to be used for purchase of open space, and the remainder goes to the DEP for purchase of open space. The $5.5 million is already allocated and Cheshire will not receive any of this funding.

With regard to the Linear Park, Mr. Ceccolini advised that the Commission must go to the Town Council for permission to apply for a grant. He submitted for the maximum amount of $250,000, but no official word has been received yet. However, the Town could get a few hundred thousand dollars. With this grant and capital funding and some Town money, the Trail improvements could go forward.

Cheshire hosted the Governor’s press conference, and this may help Cheshire to get money for future projects.

Commissioner Kushner reported on the fund raiser for the girls’ softball team which was very successful. The only expense was for tee-shirts for staff. He also reported that people like the baseball fields near the road at Bartlem Park.

The Commission will be discussing plans for a picnic area outside the playground at Bartlem Park, with a memorial plaque for the first Playground in the Park and the new playground.

Commissioner Fracasse reported that his son is a C.I.T. in the summer camp program and enjoying the experience.
Chairman Nankin invited Commissioners to attend the Concerts in the Park, and said their help would be appreciated on the concert nights.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Trifone; seconded by Mr. Fracasse.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk