

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

6 Fairfield Blvd. Wallingford

Room 4 Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - John Sullivan Called the meeting to order @ 5:31 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
Commissioners in Attendance: Chair John Sullivan, Lori Cooke-Marra, Steve Rossacci
Absent: Vice Chair Don Crouch, Lars Edeen
Recreation Staff in Attendance: Kenny Michaels - Director, Shawn Keogh - Superintendent
Others in Attendance: Scott Gray – Trails Working Group
4. **Approval of prior meeting(s) minutes** - A motion was made by Lori Cooke-Marra and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 9, 2025 with one revision (removed Janis Small, Corporation Counsel - Dutton Park item). Approved unanimously.
5. **Public Comment** – Hearing None, Chair Sullivan moved onto the next agenda item.
6. **Trails Wrok Group Update** – Scott Gray reviewed the Trails Work Group Report for April 2025. *(attached)*
7. **Dutton Park** – Chair Sullivan gave an update on the work being done at Dutton Park. Public Works is removing the mulch around the monuments and replacing it with red rock and perenials. PW is working with an arborist regarding tree trimming. They will be removing the hedges at the southern end of the park and repairing the star at the flagpole.
8. **Playing fields/parks grass conditions** – Lori Cooke-Marra stated that there is a lot of invasive grasses in the fields. Woodhouse Coyle field needs attention. Kenny Michaels stated that soil tests were done at Pragemann, Pat Wall and Westside. New Contractor, New England Turf has completed 1st application to all towns fields and is going to perform soil tests as well. Michaels stated that there may be field closures in the Fall for irrigation, slice seeding, airtation and rest. This may take place late Fall 2025 through Spring 2026. Discussisons will continue as updates are received.
9. **Pickleball courts conditions** – Lori Cooke-Marra asked about the crack in the courts. Kenny Michaels and Kurt Treiber, Risk Manager went to inspect the courts. Treiber confirmed that it is not a tripping hazard. Parks & Rec will look to fill with the filler/crack repair. It will need 3-4 consecutive days of dry weather for the repair to set and dry once applied.
10. **Renaming of Yalesville Little League Complex to the Ray Gomes Little League Complex** – There was a brief discussion about the history of the league and the name change request. **Chairman Sullivan made a Motion of Support in renaming the Yalesville Little League Complex to the Ray Gomes Little League Complex. Motion was seconded by Lori Cooke-Marra. Motion was approved unanimously.**
11. **Harrison Park Rededication for Plaques replaced for Veterans** – Noah Cutler has completed his Eagle Scout project of replacing all of the plaques. Kenny Michaels would like to hold a Rededication Ceremony for the Veterans families to attend and to recognize Noah's efforts. Michaels will begin to discuss details with George Messier, Veterans Officer and Noah Cutler to see when it would be best to hold the ceremony.
12. **Parks Master Plan** - Kenny Michaels would like to have a list of park projects by the end of Summer 2025. Begin with a review of 14-15 town parks for overhaul projects. Some park examples are: Community Lake, Richard Sheehan Park, Harrison Park and Pragemann Park. Discussions will continue.
13. **Director Updates** – Kenny Michaels reviewed the attached Director's Report. *(attached)* Some highlights: Parker Farms project is complete. Pragemann Basketball court is underway. Community Lake Sports

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

AT

3:00 PM

AND RECEIVED BY

Mister Pango TOWN CLERK

Courts project is underway. Fence repairs at Pire Park are completed. Receiving quotes for the Community Lake shoreline clearing. Community Pool bid at \$9.3MM, anticipate Town Council item on May 27th.

14. **Next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025

15. **Motion to adjourn made by:** Lori Cooke-Marra **Seconded by:** Steve Rossacci **Vote:** Unanimous

16. **Adjourned @ 6:45 pm**

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Hoppes
Secretary
Wallingford Parks & Recreation

WALLINGFORD TRAILS WORK GROUP

REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

- Two work parties performed routine maintenance work on the Green trail Bogbridge in the Tyler Mill Recreation Area.
- Also in Tyler Mill, **four** work parties removed trail obstructing tree blowdowns on the following trails: Blue/Yellow, Red/Black dot, Green, Red/Yellow, and Blue.
- Three work parties conducted trail inspections/debris removal at Fresh Meadows, Marcus Cook & Lufbury Park.
- Initial stages of trail brushing were completed in Tyler Mill along portions of the following trails: Red, Blue/Red and Red/Yellow.
- Reports of damage to the footbridge in Tyler Mill on the Red/Yellow trail led to planning for a complete rebuild. This bridge has been repaired multiple times and is currently beyond repair. The complete rebuild will occur in early May.
- Several sections of the cribbing on the Blue trail in Tyler Mill were improved. This entailed adding two new sections, and replacing one section that was temporary.
- Additionally in Tyler Mill, field markers were installed on the north end of the Blue/Red trail, where the trail occupies the field edge.
Of note was the removal of any old signage within the Tyler Mill Recreation Area that has been rendered outdated due to the recent trail reblazing.
- Multiple work parties removed invasive plant growth along the southern section of the Red/Yellow trail in the Tyler Mill Recreation Area.
- Planning for the annual brushing of **ALL** of Wallingford's Parks & Rec trails is being initiated, with work to begin in mid-May.

Since the last report dated 4/4/25, a total of **114** volunteer hours have been completed.

This brings the total Trails Work Group volunteer hours for the past 12 months to **1,316**.

Scott Gray ~ 5/4/25

Recreation Commission Director's Report May 14, 2025

Programs/Events:

- **Winter Program Numbers**

Activities Ran: 90

Activities Canceled: 18

Total Activities: 108

% Run: 83

Total Registrations: 1,968

- In the process of sending conditional offer letters to summer staff for summer employment
- Summer Brochure hit the homes Tuesday May 13th
- Adult Slow Pitch Softball Under way. 55 total teams (48 mens / 7 womens)
- Senior Softball Underway 146 players Ages 60 and over

Projects/Facilities:

- Parker Farms LL Project Update **THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETED AND SEASON IS UNDERWAY ON ALL FIELDS. Dugout recently painted by Parks and Rec Maintainers.**
- Town Council approved on November 12, 2024 an appropriation of \$11,300 of ARPA Funding to install a sidewalk/walkway and (2) benches along the new basketball court at Doolittle Park on Wall St. side. **SIDEWALK HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE 2 BENCHES WERE INSTALLED RECENTLY BY PUBLIC WORKS**
- Pragemann Park Basketball Court project went out to bid and has been awarded to Hinding Sport Courts \$160,625. **PROJECT UNDERWAY. CONCRETE WAS POURED ON TUESDAY MAY 13TH. CONCRETE MUST CURE FOR 30 DAYS THEN CAN BEGIN PAINTING OF THE COURTS.**
- Community Lake Sports Court bid opened on March 27th. Low bidder is Classic Turf who completed the Doolittle Basketball Courts. The project has not been awarded as of date. The plan is to meet with Classic Turf prior to award to discuss the project and the issues of bubbling that happened on the first painting of Doolittle Courts. This project will replace the (2) aging tennis courts with (2) new post tension concrete tennis courts and fencing, along with replacement of (1) basketball court into a post tension concrete basketball court. **PROJECT BEGAN ON FRIDAY MAY 9TH WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE FENCE AND POSTS. COURT PREP AND REMOVAL SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK.**
- Working with fencing contractor to get pricing on Fence/Backstop repairs for Pire Park and dugout expansion for Pire Park. Completed the week of April 1st, repaired the back stop curling, replaced the damaged and cut open mesh on the fencing between the park and neighbor and reduced the entrances on the Birch Dr. side of the park to eliminate the access of mini snowmobiles which accessed the park this winter. **REPAIRS AT PIRE PARK ARE COMPLETED. WORK DONE BY CORNERSTONE FENCE.**
- Working with Chuck Sherwood a local turf management contractor to do soil samples on sports fields located at Pat Wall, West Side and Pragemann. Contractor took the samples last week and we are awaiting results. The goal is to outline and develop proper turf/grass treatments for these locations to maximize growth and durability. **CHUCK COMPLETED SOIL SAMPLES ON DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AND REPORT WAS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY MY OFFICE. I WILL REVIEW THE RESULTS AND FORWARD TO PUBLIC WORKS AND TO OUR NEW LAWN TREATMENT COMPANY TO DETERMINE BEST TREATMENT PLAN FOR TOWN PLAYING FIELDS.**

- In the process of receiving quotes for the Spring/Summer Community Lake Shoreline Clearing
- Community Pool Bid Opened with Banton Construction again as the low bid at \$9.3 million. I anticipate this being on the Town Council Agenda for May 27th.
- Working with multiple parties on the Pragemann dugout expansion project. Trying not to impact the LL season, looking to schedule in mid June which should coincide with the arrival of the player benches.

Upcoming –

- Discuss Potential Landscape Design Project for Dutton
- Pragemann Park Pavilion Conversion into storage garage for Lacrosse and Football
- Pat Wall Field Feasibility Study