

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2025 @ 5:30pm**  
**6 Fairfield Blvd, Wallingford**  
**Room 12 Conference Room**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Don Crouch, Lori Cooke-Marra, Lars Edeen, Steve Rossacci, Dave Anderson

**Recreation Staff in Attendance:** Director - Kenny Michaels

3. Public Comments (10 minutes total time)

- Chris Shea, (resident) informed the Commission of his concerns about the feasibility of an ice-skating rink at Doolittle Park. He volunteers with Save the Sound who are currently removing dams in rivers and streams that feed into the Long Island Sound. Wharton Brook stream is one of them and he stated that they are talking about eventually removing the dam at Doolittle Park. There are multiple species that swim up stream to Quinnipiac through Wharton Brook stream, and the dam interrupts their migration and reproduction.

- Bill Comerford (resident) suggested reverting the current Public Comment period of the meeting back to the Public Question & Answer. Don Crouch stated that this was a by-law change that was approved in 2023. He also stated that he thinks the Commission should be more than just an advisory commission. He would like to see the Commission entertain the idea of the ice-skating rink at Doolittle Park. He would like to see the Commission revisit the facility rental fees and would like to see non-profit groups pay to use the facilities and parks, these funds could be used towards park projects. Lastly, he is concerned about oversight of the installation of the post tension concrete courts at the parks.

4. Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2025

**A motion was made by Lori Cooke-Marra and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approve the November 12, 2025 minutes with the correction of item 4 - Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting September 24, 2025. Unanimously Approved.**

5. Introduction of New Commissioner: Dave Anderson

- Don Crouch introduced new commissioner Dave Anderson to the Commission. Dave Anderson gave a brief bio of his previous employment and history in Wallingford. Dave served in the same role with New Britain Parks & Recreation Commission. He appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to working with the Commission. The Commissioners welcomed Dave and look forward to having him on the Commission.

6. Reports

a. Director – Kenny Michaels reviewed his report with the commission.  
Report is attached.

- Commissioners spoke briefly about the positive feedback regarding the Community Pool and stated that the town's social media channels are doing a great job highlighting this project.

- Commissioners had a discussion regarding the use of field banners for Sponsorship/Advertising for Volunteer Run Leagues. These leagues currently receive a town contribution. This could be a revenue sharing opportunity for the leagues and the town to use towards parks field projects. Discussion will continue at future meetings.

Kenny Michaels stated that there is some discussion about the possibility of combining the Holiday Stroll and the Seasons of Celebration into one event on Saturday.

b. Project Reports

i. Community Pool Park – updates listed in the Director's report.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action: Department/Commission letter for Town Legislative Priorities – Steve Rossacci requested that the Department/Commission submits a letter to State Legislators for the Town Legislative meeting requesting that they investigate possible funding opportunities for Wallingford for use towards park and field upgrades/projects. Other towns are receiving state money for these types of projects, and he is hopeful that Wallingford can be considered for funding as well. Kenny Michaels and Don Crouch will look into adding this request to the Legislative priority submittals through the Mayor's office.

b. Discussion: Park/Facility Rental Fees – Don Crouch stated that the Recreation Commission no longer approves these fee changes, it is now approved through Town Council. He suggested reviewing the current criteria and fee waiver process for non-profit rentals. There was a discussion of the history of these fees being waived for non-profits. There have been past attempts to try and charge non-profits for the use of town facilities and fields with no avail. The Commission agreed that they would like to explore this again. This income could be additional funding to use towards Parks and Recreation projects.

c. Discussion: Feasibility for future ice-skating rink at Doolittle Park – Kenny Michaels stated that this was discussed with town departments in 2010, 2015 and again in 2021, but nothing came to fruition. Kenny Michaels has spoken with Erin O'Hare – Environmental Planner and Alison Kapushinski – Town Engineer to see if this is feasible. Our current ice-skating program is in collaboration with Choate and will continue. The commission discussed the possibility of a temporary ice rink, even if for special winter events.

d. Discussion and Possible Action: 2026 Meeting Schedule (February, May, September, December) – Don Crouch suggested that the Commission meet 4 times per year and add Special Meetings when necessary. Dates would stay as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Meeting Dates: February 11, 2026 / May 13, 2026 / September 9, 2026 / December 9, 2026

**Motion to accept the 2026 Meeting dates was made by Steve Rossacci, seconded by Lori Cooke-Marra. Unanimously approved.**

9. Commission Around Town

a. Comments/Concerns –Lars Edeen agrees that combining the Holiday Stroll with the Seasons of Celebration event is a great idea. Merchants would benefit from having it on Saturday, especially now that the Friday event begins at 4pm. Kenny Michaels stated that the events are a nice collaborative effort with Wallingford Center Inc. and Public Celebrations Committee.

10. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:21pm. **Motion to adjourn made by Steve Rossacci, seconded by Lars Edeen. Unanimously approved.**

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Hoppes

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary