

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 11, 2019
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Dave Gelo, Steve Rossacci, and Mike Savenelli Sr

Recreation Commission Members Absent: Don Crouch, Jason Michael

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

Special Guests: Lauren Takores, Reporter for Record Journal

Opening Remarks: Chairperson Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:00 a.m.

Minutes:

Minutes from the August meeting were not sent out. The August and September minutes will be approved at the October meeting.

Special Guests: Allotted time per guest 15 minutes per Article 4 of By-Laws

Dave started the meeting off by welcoming Kenny Michaels as the new Director of the Park & Recreation Department.

1. Grand St. Park Updates on Renovations – Ken Michaels

Kenny met with Sal Amadeo, Purchasing, to review the bid process. Kenny is waiting for some specifications to include in the bid. Once he has all the specifications, he will submit the request to Sal. Kenny is hopeful that by mid-October the bid will be out. The actual work would probably be done in Spring 2020.

2. Improvements to the following Parks: On Hold

Pire Park - Richard Sheehan Park – Doolittle Park Building Ice Skating at Doolittle Lufbery Park

3. Installing new trees at Wallace Park to replace those that were removed

Mike said Steve Palermo, Dept of Public Works, would put new trees at the park. Kenny will reach out to Steve to see what type of trees Steve would recommend.

Kenny said the Park & Rec maintenance person cleaned up the Wallace Park.

4. Wallingford 350 - P&R Involvement- Up-Date

Michelle attended a meeting the other day on the location for the fireworks. The firework test from Lufbery Park resulted in not seeing the fireworks from different points in town. The

Committee is currently looking at a location behind Ashlar Village. Masonicare is paying for the Jubilee fireworks and wanted a location that their residents would be able to see the fireworks. Michelle is struggling with some youth league participation in the planning for Youth Day. Some leagues are uncertain who will be President in 2020 and others will be in playoffs and concluding their respective seasons.

The Park & Rec will have a Simon Says event. It is unclear where this event will take place as they will need the stage to hold this event.

5. Advertising Signs on Town Property – Jason Michael on hold

Jason was not present so this topic was placed on hold until next month.

6. Legacy Garden at Wallace Park - Nominate 2 new groups for Spring 2020

Dave distributed a list of civic organizations that John had provided to the Rec Commission last year. Dave suggested Wallingford Historic Society for the work they have done. The Wallingford Garden Club was recognized in 2017, Wallingford Elks and Wishing Well were recognized in 2018.

7. No weapons allowed – Sign on Entrances – Steve Rossacci

Steve said we have the right to post a sign that states no firearms allowed in the building, but not in an outside open area like the parks or fields. We have an Emergency Evacuation Policy, but we would need to develop an Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) with posting the no weapons sign. Kenny will discuss this with the Mayor; Janis Small, Town Attorney; and Police Chief Wright. Steve offered to participate in meetings as he did work for the Hamden Police Dept responsible for the Emergency Operation Plan.

8. Community Pool Up-Date Mike Savenelli

Mike said he was very pleased that 100% of the Town Council was in favor of the entire Community Pool plan. Mike Fortuna will contact Inlands & Wetlands and Planning & Zoning to be put on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. Once all the alternatives have been determined, Mike would like to present the revisions and final cost to the Town Council. Comments from the Town Council were pleased to see the area expanding into more than just a pool, but a park that could be used year-round. The number of lap lanes were raised, Michael Fortuna said based on studies and current use of lap lanes during the summer having 4 lap lanes was more than sufficient. Question was raised by a citizen as to why move forward with such an expensive pool. The Mayor answered the question by stating Wallingford has had a pool since the 50's and he will not take the pool away from the residences.

9. Open Discussion:

Dave said he saw some comments about the Farmers Market on FaceBook. The comments were related to a question posed by Jessica Mantzaris on why people don't attend the Farmers Market. Jessica has tried to keep a mix of food vendors and homemade craft items. Mike will stop by on Saturday to check it out.

Dave said Dutton and Harrison parks need weeding, they look really bad. Kenny said the Maintenance person was going to by to do the weeding at Harrison Park, but could also stop at Dutton. Dept of Public Works takes care of the grounds for the Memorial Day Parade, but doesn't have time to do the weeding on an ongoing basis.

Park & Rec Report: - Director's Report

1. **Grand Street Park** – working with John LeRoux to finalize the specifications.
Met with Sal Amadeo from Purchasing to discuss the bid process and TCP (The Cooperative Purchasing Network).
2. **Pickleball** – There are pickleball courts at Doolittle and Harrison Parks. Pickleball has become very popular with seniors and even the younger population. We are looking into having a third court at Harrison lined for Pickleball. Kenny is also looking into having Open Pickleball at the Park & Rec one or two days a week during the winter (November – March) from 2:00-4:00pm.
3. **Lil Rec'ers Preschool** started Sept 9th. The Preschool is no longer licensed by the state as Municipal recreational preschools are exempt from being licensed by the state.
4. Fall programs will begin on Sept 23rd – October 7th.
5. For the Summer programs we had 166 scheduled programs and 144 programs run. That is an 87% success rate. In 2006, there were 260 scheduled programs with only a 72-74% success rate. Kenny is focusing on quality over quantity. Programs that are not successful will be replaced.
6. Basketball and volleyball registration are underway.
7. Dept of Public Works is working hard at Pragemann to finish the multi-purpose field project. Plan to get irrigation and sod done by October. The conversion of the pavilion will need to wait. Money from the Pragemann Endowment Fund will pay for the pavilion conversion.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2019
8:00 a.m. Park and Recreation Department

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:05 a.m. by Dave Gelo seconded by Mike Savenelli

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk

Wallingford Parks and Recreation