

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

SPECIAL MEETING
January 24, 2022

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:01 PM via ZOOM.

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian and Taylor; Board of Selectman Liaison Muska; Director Maltese, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as three (3) Commissioners were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook. Mr. Ceppetelli stated that he wanted to address the meeting structure itself and suggested adding public comments at the end of the meeting as well. He stated that two months between the end of the meeting makes it difficult for comments and that having two periods for public participation would make the meeting more efficient.

He stated that the income during 2021 season was less than previous years and commented that it was stated in the last meeting that it was partially due to the closure of swimming area due to water issues. He is certain it was caused by drainage issues created by the removal of trees. He said he saw this for himself after a storm. There was significant from beach erosion. He stated that bass water controls, would significantly reduce intake into the swimming area itself.

He stated that at the October wetland meeting, there was a withdrawal of a request for an intake structure and outlet pipe. He said it sounded like that it was for the park. The address listed on the application was the intersection of Reservoir Ave and Skinner Road. He wants to know will the plans impact residents of Skinner Road. What was planned and why was the application removed.

At the last meeting there was conversation regarding the revenue number. Totals don't seem to be correct. He said there is no way that expenses could be met with the amount of income that was stated. He also stated that State parks were overflowing and turning people away while our Par was closed. During swimming closures, the splash pad was not closed. He also stated that there was a decrease 2021 decrease in pavilion revenue. At the last meeting no expenses were shown and didn't include any maintenance costs. He stated that there does not appear to be much maintenance rom the way it is looks.

Over the summer it was apparent that one of the property owners on Reservoir Avenue were granted permission to a number of plantings that are clearly on Park property. He wants to know the guidelines for planting and care of the trees.

It is apparent that the town has no intention of planting trees.

The Master Plan On town web site that lists facilities needs to be updated and are totally inaccurate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of the September 13, 2021 Meeting as written
Taylor moved/ Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Master Plan

Director Maltese stated that she has met with community and BETA group in a community outreach effort. The meeting was successful in getting feedback. Participants were given information to take home. An online survey was provided to the community and resulted in 20 returns which have been given to BETA. These will be discussed with BETA group on the 27th. Second outreach is in conjunction with the PTO and Booster Club on February 9th at 6PM via zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Maltese requested that item c be taken out of order

MOTION: To taken Item C out of order

Taylor moved/ Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

c. Proposed Eagle Project – Tim Misluk

Tim state that he would like to put shelters over the benches at the large soccer field behind Scout Hall on Abbe Road. The cost would be 5 to 6 thousand. Funds would come from the East Windsor Soccer club and other fund raisers that Tim would have. He stated that the shelters could be permanent or portable.

Commissioner Szymanski asked if we had a choice and who would be responsible for them.

Tim's Father Mike Misluk stated that they are looking at options but would prefer to do something permanent and that Tim still needs to look to do further research

Director Maltese stated that this is just an introduction for informational purposes.

MOTION: To return the meeting to the agenda order

Taylor moved/ Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

a. Budget 2022-2023

In the packet there is a copy of budget that will be submitted to 1st selectman and Treasurer. Increase in Clerical salary which is the Park and Rec Lead are in negotiations.

Permanent part time salary reflects 2% increase

There is a small increase in other part time since minimum wage is going to \$14 per hour as of July 1.

Other increases include:

Professional services for summer concert series \$8000 increases which will then allow the department to host more bands. There will be an additional 3 concerts from 6 to 9. The concerts will continue to be held on Thursday.

Site improvement --\$5000 replacement of diving board at East Windsor Park. The replacement is need for safety reasons.

Topsoil for field where skating rink is placed.

Requesting to remove travel of \$300 because of access to Town vehicles for town business

Supplies --Additional \$3843 for the purchase of a Water rescue board, Water Manikin, CPR AED training kit

Dues and fees \$350 Recreation lead can take the train the trainer class.

Total increase of \$21, 699 submitted to the First Selectman for approval.

b. Financial Accounts review

Not having many expenditures in this period since parks are closed for the winter.

We are planning for the spring. Director Maltese stated that seasonal part time employees are helping with afterschool programs as needed.

The seasonal employees are also helping with COVID response which is reimbursable through FEMA.

- d. 2022 User fees for field rentals and parks. Director Maltese stated that she would like to hold the rental fees to the established amounts. It is also hoped that the ability for groups to get a waiver for alcohol will help entice people to rent the pavilion. Commissioner Bagdikian asked if there was a concern about the use of alcohol. Director Maltese stated that there are parameters are in place and it is a three-step process to gain approval. It has been mostly professional organizations that wish to have the waiver and not just a party.

MOTION: To hold fees at the current rate

Bagdikian moved/ Taylor second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

e. Park Directors Report

Director Maltese stated that she is in process working with staff to be able the purchase of season passes through our office. This would allow purchasers to use their credit card. It is felt that this will help our numbers and increase participation.

Upcoming programs include:

Limerick contest: The theme this year is animals. Winning limericks will be presented to the Board of Education as in the past. Prizes will be gift cards to Barnes and Noble. Noble.

Broad Brook Angling club will bring back fishing derby, May 7, 2022.

The Director stated that the department is working hard on summer employment. We are in need of lifeguards, camp director and counsellors, snack bar and gatehouse employees.

The Director stated that the returned to in person afterschool programs has been successful and is thankful that the schools are once again allowing us in. Programs include Mad Science and Art Venture at Broad Brook School and Cooking Classes here at annex. All programs are user paid programs.

The skating rink being used. Thank you to DPW and both the Broad Brook and Warehouse Point Fire Departments forgetting it set up and filled for us.

The department is currently working on a Story Walk program. This is a walkable book program. A structure Put up a structure. Plastic board installed on a post and put a story along a walking path. To achieve exercises and literacy.

Director thanked her staff for their willingness to help out with COVID testing so that is a seamless process.

Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond Park/East Windsor (Reservoir) Park/Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:

CORRESPONDENCE

Director Maltese stated there was no correspondence but did want to mention that Sarah Muska is now our liaison from the Board of Selectman and thanked Marie DeSousa for her support.

MISCELLANEOUS

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Szymanski

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:47 pm

Taylor moved/ Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary