

PARK COMMISSION

September 8, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Joseph DeSabia

Kevin Bellows  
Tony Chmielewski

Also,  
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris

Guest:  
Teren Basel, 6092 Main Street, Yale N.H. Hospital Office of Dev.

Public Comments:

Teren Basel, Yale N.H. Hospital Office of Development:

Distributed information on Together For Kids, a national support network for children's hospitals of which Yale New Haven is a participant. Fifty-seven member hospitals will be taking part in a Walk Across America event this fall, in this region Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Participants will sign-up on line and may walk in whatever way they wish (treadmills, neighborhoods, trails). They are looking for sites for people to walk and were considering the Rail Trail through Trumbull. She checked with the Rangers at Sherwood Island who indicated the Valley Rail Trail is open to the public. Her concern was for parking. She was attempting to identify parking for 30 to 40 cars. Following discussion it was thought that along with the available parking at the Tait Road entrance that throughout the Trumbull Center business district on a Sunday afternoon, there are parking spaces which participants can access. Once registrations are complete, she will alert us to the numbers which will walk the Rail Trail.

**CONSENSUS to close Public Comments.**

**CONSENSUS to approve the minutes of the August meeting as distributed.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

From Joan Rosenbaum, 55 Pondview Avenue, Geese Problem:

Mrs. Rosenbaum commented on the many pond areas of town which have been spoiled because of the mess brought on by the native geese we now experience. She lives directly across from Gunther (Pondview) Park and the geese beginning in the early a.m. cross the street from the pond area to her lawn...she was a private citizen who was invaded. She spoke with Park Superintendent Paris who provided very lengthy, knowledgeable and sympathetic conversation, she spoke with the Health Department as well as the Animal Control Officer. Finally her landscaper installed a 6-level monofilament fishing line "goose fence" with colored ribbons tied on the top line. The geese have been deterred and have not been seen on her side of the road for over a month and the street is now relatively clean. Her disappointment is that there was no way offered by the town to rid the beautiful pond area of the nuisance neighbors to pond must deal with.

Chairman noted that the Park Department has been dealing with the geese problem for close to 15 years now...taking many and varied steps to discourage them. Our park system has many, many small pond locations and we have not come up with a simple solution to rid ourselves of them. We are currently concentrating on Twin Brooks Park to hopefully be able to reopen our swimming area at that location which has been closed for four seasons now. We have planted the complete perimeter of the swimming pond to discourage the geese and installed a circulation fountain to keep the water moving. If we were to plant the perimeter of a pond like the one at Gunther Park, we would remove the view of the pond from the neighborhood.

Chairman said we will thank Mrs. Rosenbaum for her comments and keep them in mind as we continue to deal with the geese problems we are experiencing throughout the park system.

From: First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr. – Reminder of Code of Ethics, Section VIII, Gifts, Gratuities and Favors.

Cc Board of Health notification of results of the testing for lead in the Astroturf samples obtained from Indian Ledge Park which were determined to be below the Federal Soil Clean-Up Criteria limits for toxic levels of lead in soil. Federal Soil Clean-Up is 400 mg/Kg. Our field was tested at 1.00 mg/Kg and 0.99 mg/Kg.

Old Business:

Veterans Fallen Heroes Event – June 13, 2009 at Indian Ledge Park. The Trumbull Veterans' Organizations will present particulars for this planned event at our October meeting.

Irish Festival Review:

Chairman is in process of preparing a review of the field rehabilitation required following this year's event.

New Business:

Park Superintendent presented a laminated sign which was posted on the Concession Stand at Beach Pool indicating that our concessionaire is attempting to sell his business. As we have a long-term contract with the concessionaire, he is unable to sell those contract rights, but can terminate the rights. We will request an opinion from the Town Attorney and contact the concessionaire in this regard.

Hurricane Hanna, Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>:

We had some flooding at Twin Brooks. We were fortunate that the Public Works Department opened the Twin Brooks Pond and Pinewood Lake dam valves well in advance which lowered the water volume considerably.

Superintendent's Report:

- Sod will be installed at Island Brook Field next week.
- Prior to installation, we have some raking of gravel to clean off the area from the storm.
- During the storm, water drained remarkably well.
- Pools are closed.
- We have repairs necessary prior to next season at Tashua Pool.
- Beach Pool electrical repairs are completed.
- Beach Pool Sprinkler Park has a serious leak under the saucer. Department is working to improve the reduction of water supply to the sprinklers by replacing a series of solenoids. It may be necessary to put the system on a timer next season to build up water pressure during down time.
- Attended a Little League Meeting this evening. They are getting ready for the start of their fall season. They will be making a determination as to which fields can be closed down.
- The Donna Festa Softball Tournament was well run with the facilities left spotlessly clean. In discussion of their interest to hold a second tournament fund raiser it was brought out that the event was privately sponsored and not sponsored by Little League as the Superintendent and Commission thought.

As we only allow town-organized sports sponsored events use of our fields, a request for a second private fund raiser cannot be approved.

Pop Warner Football is in need of practice fields. Madison Middle School is torn-up with sewer line installations and the field will not be playable this season. Superintendent and Recreation Director have been attempting to schedule their practices wherever we can find space and games at the Kaechele Complex. Sod for the Madison Middle School would be in the range of \$15,000. Schools will plan to hydro-seed because of the cost which will take several seasons to bring the field back into play.

Park Land Trust Account #43120000:

The Town Finance Director has spoken with the Treasurer on transferring funds from the General Fund to the Trust Account to cover undistributed interest since 2000 in the amount of \$18,639.24 (estimated STIF interest for that period). The Treasurer felt the Park Commission needs to make the request through the Board of Finance as he cannot redistribute accumulated interest without its authorization.

The Chairman will request the Board of Finance approve a Transfer from the General Fund Balance of \$18,639.14 to our Municipal Park Improvements (Park Land Trust) Account #43120000.

Background for request:

In April 1983, the Town received a positive decision by Superior Court Judge Daugherty on our request to sell the two houses received from the State in conjunction with the Route 25 Connector State/Parkland exchange; the proceeds of the sale must be used for park purposes.

The Park Land Trust Fund was created in 1984 with the sale of the properties.

Park Commission Minutes February 14, 1984:

A motion duly made and passed that only one half of the money received from the sale of the two houses from the State of Connecticut Parkland Exchange be spent on capital improvements, and the balance placed in a trust fund, the interest accrued from which to be spent on long-range capital improvements in accordance with a priority listing to be established by the Park Commission.

Our Financial Statement of June 30, 1985 shows:

Revenue	
Whitney Avenue House	\$82,900.00
Tungston Circle	\$85,500.00
Interest	\$15,827.05
Total	<u>\$184,227.05</u>
Expenditures	
Real Estate Commiss	2,563.89
Whitney Avenue Costs	2,565.00
Expenditures incurred/ Sale of houses	11,862.41
Indian Ledge Park Excha Property Preparations	27,218.45
	<u>\$ 44,209.75</u>
Total Funds Available 6/30/198	<u>\$140, 017.30</u>

From that point, \$70,000 has remained in the corpus of the account and projects paid from the income.

The Balance of the account in June 30, 2000 \$ 71,981.00

A recent motion of the Park Commission approved an amount from the Trust Fund to cover the costs of the Gilbert Standley Orchard Dedication Monument. It was discovered at that point that interest had not been applied to the corpus since the year 2000 as the fund has been invested with the General Funds over that period. The Director of Finance has determined that interest equal to STIF accounts for that period would amount to \$18,639.14.

The current balance of the account is \$71,196.11 (Interest not posted to the account.)

CONSENSUS to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Assistant

PARK COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008  
ACTIONS

**CONSENSUS** to close Public Comments.

**CONSENSUS** to approve the minutes of the August meeting as distributed.

**CONSENSUS** to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.