

PARK COMMISSION
JULY 11, 2011

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

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Kevin Bellows
Ken Martin

Joseph DeSabia
Diane Mayo

Also,
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris
Town Attorney Edward V. Walsh

Guests:
George Rodrigues, 62 Winslow Road, Pick-Up Games
Fred Teixeira, 37 Revere Lane, Pick-Up Games
Mark Davis, 48 Canoe Brook Road, Tip Top League

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mrs. Mayo, unanimously passed to enter an Executive Session on a Legal Matter at 7:35 p.m..

Those in attendance: Commissioners Robert Ferrigno, Kevin Bellows, Diane Mayo, Kenneth Martin, Joseph DeSabia and Town Attorney Edward V. Walsh.

Executive Session closed at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting opened to order of agenda at 8:00 p.m.

Public Comments:

George Rodrigues on Pick-Up Games:

He and a group of older generation men and women have for a long time played pick-up soccer games at the bottom of the Hillcrest field area at a location which is not a regulated field area, just a green area, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. They were notified on Sunday by the Park Ranger that they cannot play there without a permit. They are 16/20 players and questioned what they need to do to get a permit. They are not a league team.

Chairman explained the joining of Board of Education and Town Parks fields under one Field Use Policy. They were instructed to obtain and review the new field use policy which is available at the Recreation Office. They and their play location need to be identified and approved by the Park Commission and then they can request scheduling and permitting from the Recreation Department.

Mr. Teixeira noted that no games are played at the little corner of grass area they play their games.

Superintendent said that pick-up games are not currently identified under the Policy Rules. Rangers have just begun their security runs at the BOE properties beginning this month. In the parks system, we channel pick-up play to areas allowed. Under the new system, all routine play, league or not, needs to be identified.

Mark Davis, Tip Top League:

They need a field on Sunday mornings, Indian Ledge or THS. They get their scheduled through Sandro Pizzicarola, Over 40 League. They practice on Thursdays and Saturdays. Need a small parcel to train and run. In the past they have used a small spot at the back of the high school. They are 15 players.

Mr. Martin commented that just because there is open grass, it's not a practice field.

Superintendent noted that if they are a consistent presence even though not an organized league, they need to be identified by permit. In the past, they have been "under the radar", now exposed and need to be permitted.

Chairman thanked them for attending indicating we do not yet have a definitive answer for them tonight. Again, they should define their use, request approval from the Park Commission, then make a request to the Recreation Department for permitting and scheduling.

Consensus was that pick-up games are "field users", and it must be defined as to where they can or should be playing.

MOTION by Mrs. Mayo, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to close the Guest portion of the meeting and return to the order of the agenda.

MOTION by DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2011 meeting as distributed.

Correspondence:

From Superintendent of Schools approving the Town of Trumbull Park Rangers monitoring field usage after hours and weekends to enforce permits and scheduling regulations.

From Ben Walsh, concessionaire, requesting covered trash cars in Beach Park to help alleviate the bee problem.

Superintendent commented that covering the trash cans alone will not resolve the bee problem at the concession stands. Trash needs to be picked up and removed regularly from the area. The food is attracting the bees.

MOTION by Mr. DeSabia, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed granting permission to Concessionaire Ben Walsh to replace or provide covers on the waste receptacles at the Concession stand locations at his expense as well as the requirement to improve the cleanliness around the concession stands on a more regular basis as a deterrent to attracting bees to the areas.

Old Business:

Gates at fountain parking areas of Twin Brooks Park and at Nothnagle Park.

Twin Brooks materials are purchased and on order. Nothnagle Park needs follow-up for approval to install.

Superintendent's Report:

- The historic 1800's barn at Abraham Nichols Park is being restored. Working on the roof now, replacing old timbers, new roofing and gutters. Barn will be repainted a historic burgundy red.
- Superintendent noted that the barn from Unity Hill Church, White Plains Road, once taken down will be immediately rebuilt into the hill at the Abraham Nichols Park.

Mr. Martin expressed great pleasure from the historic standpoint with the work being accomplished noting that rehabilitation of historic barns has taken place in Easton and Fairfield as well.

- We have good news, in that, the DEEP has approved replacement of the vehicle bridge at Old Mine Park. It has been close to five years since the funding was approved and the delay may bring the cost to rebuild higher than at the time of funding. We may need to seek Town approval of additional funding through the LOCIP program.
- Superintendent requested a letter of commendation be prepared for Charles Busser, our Assistant Superintendent, who has a wide range of capabilities utilizing his plumbing, electrical and carpentry skills. Since September the Town has been without a plumber and in addition to all other of his duties has taken on all plumbing projects with our pools, lavatories and properties within our care. Mr. Busser has worked tirelessly accomplishing and overseeing projects and should be recognized as a valuable employee with a great deal of ingenuity and creativity and approach to solving problems.

The Commission will prepare a letter of commendation for Charles Busser to be presented at the August meeting of the Park Commission with a copy for his personnel file.

- The Gardiner position has been removed, and the Superintendent will transfer those funds to vendor services to cover on-call service for fields. This will keep fields up and playable under bad weather conditions.
- Our field lighting contractor has replaced all bulbs at Unity park free as a condition of the original contract cycle.
- We have had a lot of tree removal and work especially within the trails system with the bad weather conditions. The Trails Coalition has updated us on issues through a GPS system noting where trees or limbs have fallen. This has been a great time saver. Crews are dispatched quickly.

Mr. Martin noted that new branches off major trails continue to be created; one goes down to the river edge creating a swell of water running down to the river. We must try to curtail this activity.

Superintendent said that the activity in the Valley continues to increase. There are never parking spaces open at the lots. Rangers are doing their best with sticker enforcement in the park areas.

Dr. Bellows said he did go into Riverside Cemetery and questioned where to park. Superintendent said that from Daniels Farm Road, you must walk in.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. by Mr. DeSabia, second Mrs. Mayo, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe
Clerical Administrative Assistant

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MOTIONS

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