

Agenda
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023

Notice: This meeting will be held in the Long Hill Room

Call to Order

Public Comment

Daniel Viera

Eli Newsome

Thomas Broderick

Acceptance of Minutes

Correspondence

Old Business

New Business

Superintendent's Report

Division Reports

Any other business that might rightly come before the Commission

Adjournment

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Clerk, Abigail Relkin at awhitmoyer@trumbullvfc.com

May 8 Trumbull Parks Commission Notes

Present: Kevin Bellows (Chairman), Nancy Walsh, Ed Ritacco, Jonathan O'Brien, Brian LeClerc

Absent: Cat Lamy

Also Present: Abigail Relkin (Clerk), Dmitri Paris (Superintendent)

Public Comment Opened:

Daniel Viera, Buttercup Lane

LIVFree Tournament –

Comment: Request to use Unity Park for a benefit softball tournament either September 23/24 or September 30/October 1. I've already spoken with Greg MacDonald about the tournament, and he is accepting of the plan to adjust the little league schedule to accommodate. The tournament would require all little league fields, but we would also like to use the Babe Ruth field if it is available. Games could be staggered to accommodate parking. Finally, requesting the fees to use the fields be waived.

Ken Martin, Huntington Turnpike

Woods Estate, Trumbull Historical Society –

Comment: The greenhouse was suddenly gone one day, and since I've had several conversations with Dmitri Paris to understand why it was taken down. When a historic building is deemed destroyed or needs to be demolished, it must go before a board. There needs to be a review to see if there is a possibility to restore and it did not happen. Obviously, there was a safety issue and parks commission were not made aware of it. If something like this happens again, would the proper avenues be traveled.

The two barns are undergoing restoration for the last 10 years however budgetary issues and utilities have stopped this. This is a destination for people to see the history of our town, and we want people to know and respect it.

Response: Dmitri Paris –

I've been involved with the area since the day I started with Trumbull. We've talked deeply about the project, and I believe the facility has come a long way. However, the primary function of the Parks Department is cutting grass, running pools, keeping parks clean, etc. It is a sacrifice of efficacy of project, price and limited resources.

They have started to restore the greenhouse, saving pieces of it in the shop over the past few years. The tree came down and hit the chimney causing a domino effect with brick and cement going through the center of the greenhouse. The gas line was exposed and damaged. There was an urgency to terminate the gas line and get everything removed.

Question: Ken Martin –

What would be required to get these things operational again?

Response: Dmitri Paris –

When there was a demo permit the gas company came out with an urgent response to shut the line off. They did not communicate that once you terminate the line, they will not reconnect it after so many days. It has been reported that it would take \$11,000 to put gas where it was.

Genevieve MacGrath, Teeterock Road
Woods Estate, Trumbull Historical Society –

Comment: I also have concerns about the Woods Estate and the limited communication about park projects and updates. Where was the notice that there was no way to save the greenhouse when it got destroyed to see if there was a way to use it in another capacity?

I would like to bring the great tree to your attention. It needs pruning and fertilization, and I hope a professional to assist.

What is the budget of the area looking like? What are the short- and long-term plans?

Arwin K., Palomino Pass
Volleyball Courts

Comment: Working with commission for 3 years to get volleyball courts fixed up in Unity Park. As of last year, the commission did an amazing job, and the courts are in great shape last summer. 2 questions: 1. Towards the end of the season there were wooden planks there (that are too short and not stopping the ball), maybe to move towards a fence? 2. During the mornings, the sun hits hard on one side. We cannot ask you to change the sun, but would like to request that the nets be moved to the grass for the time being? If we could do this, we're willing to sign waivers.

Response: Dmitri Paris – A possibility would be to have something at the water line to hopefully stop the ball from making it to the water.

Response: Dmitri Paris – it would make the most sense to put nets or something similar. If there's an installation, it's a bit more complex.

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent
Pickleball

Comment: When it started, there was no certainty that Pickleball would be a going concern or have the popularity it did. We painted some courts, and it started something bigger with rapid evolution from there. There was a formation of "social play."

- The first challenge became, how we can support the community beyond residents? Permits, parking passes, etc. are used to manage the system. We moved forward with Unity Park to see if it would be problematic. It's not like anything else we have; it doesn't fit neatly. Worked out times, no ranger patrols going in earnest, seemed to work well.
- Year 2- There were petitions for more courts and we were able to get additional funding to set the stage for Island Brook transformation. This changed the whole system in that the social construct is so strong that everyone is talking to each other to manage time (which is different from a league). When Island Brook grew, we started to hear complaints from a group of other pickleball

players beyond the social group. They wanted to get together with friends vs the leagues. There were no residents on the courts. Trying to get a sense of whether it was appropriate, we're people in-line with permits. Other towns are also going through this, it doesn't fit neatly into community structures to thrive while ensuring residents have fair opportunities. We have tried to take and many pieces from other communities and talked to subgroups and the social group.

- What could work and how it would relate to parking, residents, etc. trying to create a program. Everything we're trying to work on, whoever has a permit, has the authority to be there. Because the social program is not a true league, the only way for it to be honored is if it were created under the parks and recreation name. I am sure it is not perfect but there are elements that are key to preserving the group without collapse. It is a work in progress still, trying to figure out the best point for the fee in relation to the amount of play possible, preserved communal activity, resident has a benefit for the tax dollars vs nonresident so they can afford to participate.
- UPDATE: Looking towards opening Tashua (8 new lit courts) but there are so many things to consider. Carving a spot for social play in one location, remaining courts to stroll on our permits for the times.

Comment: John Paul F., Pinewood Trail

- I've been involved for 5-6 years; we've had a great thriving community for like few years. Parks and rec have done a wonderful job by building courts and accommodating needs. With that said, the idea of the program is a good idea. It seems like it's an easier place to get what we want as a group, premium play time in the evenings, money can go to the courts. I support the program idea on that level. Hopefully we can use the money brought in for improvements to the courts. If there's a program, it's easier to get these things than as individuals. I think there's a lot we can do. Right now, it's fractured but I know once there's a resolution it will be fine.

Comment: Lucy MacArthur – nonresident, Monroe. Past Trumbull resident.

- Bits of confusion on "teamreach". I agree with John that if we get funding it could help but I know there are plans and there may be a fee that will cover May – November. When will there be a final plan? What about people who have already paid?

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- The biggest challenge is reaching everyone. We've attempted to get the information out to the best of our ability. One bit of information can overwhelm the truth or cause a simple misunderstanding.
- Current fees are for the year.

Comment: Lucy MacArthur – nonresident, Monroe. Past Trumbull resident.

- Resident vs nonresident- if every community does this, there are parameters around the community. And now breaking the community. The community seems to already be breaking. We need to communicate this sooner than later.

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- Some places have restrictions. Not pushing for this but trying to allow everything to work.

Comment: Joan Schoenleber, Trumbull Resident

- Have been dismayed that the group had 3 blocked and now 6 blocked off. Rangers will stop people from going on those courts if they aren't scheduled on it.
 - o I think the number of courts blocked should be comparable to the number of people signed up, we just want to be able to play.
- I'm thrilled with the support and the courts blooming.
- The idea of a parking permit for nonresident is wonderful. Charge for parking and let them come.

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- When we blocked Unity, it was to make sure that island brook was available.
- Our intention is to foster the community in all ways people want to play. It makes my job worthwhile. We are trying to get the message out to the social play group to understand and to get the universal buy in.

Comment: Marla Rubin, Lycett Street

- At Unity, if no one is there, the ranger will not allow open play on the court. Then Island Brook is packed with a mix of walk ins and social play.

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- What we are trying to do is to have the structured time, so people will use Unity as they did previously. If it were just a walk on, no one will be at island brook. This is all still evolving.

Comment: Vicki Tesoro, First Selectwoman

- My goal was to give everyone an opportunity to play. The social club has about 80 people between morning and afternoon signed up. I cannot answer why they are not playing. If those that sign up don't want this, we should not have it, I cannot defend the courts not being played on. This is still very new, only been a week. 3 of those days it has rained.

Comment: Community member – Communication is needed. Website is not user friendly.

Comment: Joann Zambo, Woosley Avenue

- There have been reservation system issues – a friend made a reservation, someone else got a permit by calling for the same time.
- Why is there a cap?

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- Call to office to speak to Noreen or Gretchen. If anyone has issues signing in, we can walk people through it. Once in the system, it's very easy to sign up.
- The system is currently based on individuals, but everyone in the household can take a permit. People have monopolized on this and blocking courts. The intent is to allow as many people to play.

Motion to close public comment

Motion to close by Kevin Bellows, Second by Brian LeClerc

Acceptance of March minutes

Motion to approve by Nancy, Second by Mike Trivisiano

Old Business

Comment: Nancy Walsh

- When will Old Mine trail be opened? Twin Brooks?

Response: Dmitri Paris, Superintendent

- Old Mine, two months max. Twin Brooks, less than a month to drive through, paving as we speak. Planting in next few weeks. Weather has played a part.

New Business

LIVFree Softball Tournament Proposal

- Comment: Jonathan O'Brien- I think it's fine if they check out on the Babe Ruth field. We will check in about little league.
 - o Question: Kevin Bellows- What about the fee? Should we waive the fee?
 - § Paris – We didn't waive the fee with movie night at Indian ledge (easily managed event). A tournament is a tournament. Who's managing the facility? How many games? Who's grooming? Does this align with the event?
 - § Bellows- If approved, the day fee for facility is paid and contracted with our field people that fees are paid. Not in favor of waiving the fee. Field is being taken for the whole weekend.
- Question: Dmitri Paris- What do they need? What are the details? Could we ask the teams using the fields to partner, would they shoulder the grooming costs? We've also charged other fundraiser fees to this group.
- Question: Nancy Walsh- Who covers insurance?
 - o Comment: Kevin Bellows- Insurance details are in their contract.

Motion to approve the tournament with approval of one little league, allowing fields to be available as well as grooming and maintenance fees and staying in compliance with field group policy.

Motion rescinded by Nancy to table discussion until more details are worked out.

Geocaching –

- Comment: Dmitri Paris- People have requested to do this through the parks department. Never had any issues with it.

Motion to approve the geocache placement at Twin Brooks

Motion made by Nancy Walsh, Second by Ed Ritacco

Volleyball

- Temporary net, Dmitri has no issue as long as they remove it. Can look into adding a net for next year.
 - o Comment: Mike Trivisiano – Worried about wildlife getting stuck in it.

Woods Estate, Trumbull Historical Society

- Comment: Dmitri Paris- Complimentary of work done. We cannot budget high dollar amounts because there are other priorities. We intend to use the barn for programming. It's well suited for recreational activities.
- Comment: Nancy are there any plans for the tree?
Responses: Dmitri Paris- I haven't noticed a significant problem with the tree. It's approaching end of life.

Pickleball

- Comment: Kevin Bellows – This system is new so we're hearing this for the first time too. Noreen sent changes out. We need to be better at getting the information out.
- Comment: Dmitri Paris- The issue is what is expected of the commission? We've had a number of meetings to get an idea. Do you want to preserve; 1. the social pickleball construct and 2. have a specified fee structure with residents and no residents but want to find ways to preserve it in ways other residents have commented? It will all likely expand again when Indian Ledge courts open. We need a mechanism to keep it in check to make sure it's not being abused
 - o Comment: Kevin Bellows- I think the current fee schedule is fair. There's a benefit for the resident to have a \$25 fee vs \$100 nonresident fee. We heard a lot that when there's no one on a court and a ranger won't let them play because they aren't on a list. But if they aren't there and the ranger is lenient but if someone comes that's permitted, you need to leave. Is this possible?
 - § Comment: Dmitri Paris- Trying to find a way to encourage and ensure that people who are there are a part of the program. You can attempt doing what we did in the beginning, insist upon nonresident parking sticker, and don't manage. An additional effort to take out a permit, we can do that as well but only residents can do this.
 - § Vicki—If the club has it set for a 3-hour block, they're still in the time period. They pay for the permit, and sign up

Superintendents report, Dmitri Paris

- Starting to get summer help
- A lot going on

Recreation Report: Emailed out

Park Ranger Report: Emailed Out

Any other business before the commission:

- Comment: Nancy Walsh
 - o Any thought to open teen center as a teen center?
- Response: Dmitri Paris
 - o No intent, no. On the radar but site is not conducive, the way the concept evolved was managed well.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Ed Ritacco, Second By

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

1. What is the purpose of the barn?

The purpose of the barn project is first and for most a renovation and restoration project of a Parks Historic asset.

2. What is the short- & long-term use for this park & the buildings?

The answer for both is once all facilities have a C.O. that they will be utilized for P&R programming like Yoga, Dance and Music classes

Long Term the Park will be utilized as all Parks are for various activities consistent with the limits of the Parks capacity and resources that are contained within.

3. Where is the money coming from for this work?

Two bonded projects have been used for the Restoration totaling approximately 40 thousand to date. Regular repair and maintenance costs come from the departments operating budget

4. How much has this barn project cost?

Answer within previous statement

4. Why isn't there public visibility on this project?

The work done on the Barn has been ongoing for many years. In that time the proposal requests for funding has gone through two Administrations as well as the Board of Finances and Town Council for approvals. The Parks and Recreation Commission has periodically been kept abreast of progress and updates through Department Reports.

Public visibility on this or any other project would be available with interfacing with any or all of the above.

In closing, projects that depend on the P&R Maintenance Staff for in kind services all work exactly the same way....A Pavilion, and Ballfield, a Bridge etc all may need operating funds to repair or bonded funding to restore. Its really all a matter of how much time the project can be allowed to take. In this instance, the preservation, relocating or renovation of a historic build from the onset is going to be a lengthy process as it can only be done incrementally.

RECREATION REPORT

June 2023

Summer is here! Beach Memorial Pool opened on Saturday May 27 and has been operational daily from 12pm-6pm. Tashua Knolls pool is expected to open on/around June 17. Camp and Swim Lesson registration opened March 1st and nearly all sessions are SOLD OUT! Both programs begin Session 1 on June 26th.

Pickleball Update: Social Play pickleball has seen a surge in enrollment and we currently have 190 participants. Additionally, we are seeing over 70 resident permits per week. We expect the number of permits to grow with the expansion of the eight lit courts at Tashua Knolls expected to open later this month.

Lastly, we have added on to our summer concert series! We will not have any concerts on July 4th as that is when the Declaration Reading will take place! Please find the schedule below:

Other:

Summer Concert Series

- Children's Concerts Tuesday 10am @ Recreation Lawn (June 27- August 15)
- Tuesday Evening Concerts 7pm @ Town Hall Green (June 27 - September 12)

NEW: Sunday Concert Series

- Sunday 4pm @ Town Hall Green (June 25-August 13)

Summer Dive-In event @ Tashua Knolls July 15 6-8pm

The Recreation Office will be closed Monday June 19, Monday July 3, and Tuesday July 4.



Town of Trumbull
Parks and Recreation
Ranger Division

Parks and Recreation Commission
Ranger Division May 2023 Report

Commissioners,

This report is a summary of the Ranger Division activities for the May 2023.

As Spring winded down and the summer season came upon us, the expected sports and activity increased. Ranger duties also increased with the start of opening and closing various park bathrooms for sporting and special permitted events, Beaches Pool and the control of lights at sports fields.

Rangers responded and took 20 written reports. During proactive patrol, rangers observed one case of a dog being off leash at Twin Brooks Park, a written warning was issued. There was one case of Damage to Town Property by grafitti on the Twin Brooks section of Rails to Trails, where derogatory remarks were painted on the trail path. There were two Conduct and behavior issues, one at Twin Brooks Park regarding a parking ticket where Trumbull Police assisted and another at Unity Park at the Pickleball courts, which was resolved. Rangers assisted a resident at the Unity pickleball court with an injury and addressed a littering issue at Island Brook. Trumbull Police dispatched a Ranger to Kaatz Pond for a large weighted fishing seine net found by the culvert. Fishermen at the pond did not know who it belonged to. The seine was removed.

There were 45 parking violations issued, 23 written parking warnings and 4 written infractions

Parking Violations by park	Written Parking Warnings
Twin Brooks 32	20
Old Mine 03	3
Indian Ledge 04	0
Island Brook 6	0
Unity 0	0
Beach 0	0
Nothnagle 0	0

There were 4 permitted events in May which included a Boy Scout event, a historic hike and family picnics.

Respectfully Submitted
Steven Chapman
Chief Park Ranger

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Report

June 5th, 2023

The Season is off and running and by all accounts both Projects and Maintenance are doing well.

Our Cricket Pitch Project is complete and really only needs some better turf germination to be complete. The Pitch in of itself is as good as it gets in that it's a concrete base with a cushioned synthetic turf cover. Considerations of placement is outside the measured field of play for the softball divisions who use Tashua/Madison, but with the regrading and soft synthetic surface any runout will not pose a hazard.

The annual plantings were complete Town wide prior to the Memorial Day celebrations.

Work on our sidewalks throughout the Town Hall campus commenced right afterwards in order to have the areas recovered in time for our programming and concerts this year.

Old Mine Rails 2 Trails bridge is ongoing but nearing completion. Expected additional needed repair and restoration has been discovered and is being addressed. Internally we are shooting for before the end of the month for re-opening.

As of now all of the construction work and paving is complete at Indian Ledge Park. We will be doing some minor landscaping and curb backfilling now with autumn this year to complete the landscaping which will complete the work in the park. Overall the park has never looked this good and with the new parking lot and sidewalk to the playground area, safer and more accessible.

Tree work within the Parks seems to be on an uptick with Island Brook especially. Many dead trees on the boarder of private property is of significant concern. This will be an ongoing effort.

Tashua Knolls Lighted Tennis and Pickleball Courts Reconstruction is nearly complete. First coat of painting was done last week and will be following up with lining and final gate and net installation within the week. We were very fortunate in the timing of this project and we will be able to move forward with the finalized scheduling for our programs and our Pickleball Community by mid month as anticipated.

Twin Brooks Wear Course Paving is scheduled for this week weather permitting. We have been keeping the Park closed every morning in order to keep the project moving efficiently and safely. Many trucks and relocating of material within the Main parking lot have been a part of this final phase of the project and would have significantly been impaired if they were allowed within the Park. Each day we re-open to the public and of course on the weekend. Once paving is complete we will again open the park daily during regular hours operation. Work will be ongoing within the park fine tuning the project to full completion all year. The biggest challenge will be acclimating the new plant material to the site, however we have the ability to water from within the Park making it much easier to keep up with caring for hundreds of new trees and shrubs.

Beach Memorial received its operational license from the Health Department and opened on time on Memorial Day. Adjustment work within the Water Vault of the Spalsh Pad were made to attempt to limit shut downs during regular usage this year in advance of the new system installation scheduled for 2024.

Lastly, we had to address the staircase at Abraham Nichols as we could no longer ignore its deterioration from erosion. Though we had intended to replace them eventually with a ADA compliant ramp, this project had to be accelerated for safety sake.