

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2022

In attendance:

Kevin Bellows, Chairman
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Cat Lamy
Brian LeClerc
Ken Martin
Ed Ritacco (7:14 p.m.)

Not in attendance:

Jon O'Brien
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks

Guests:

Arthur Meyer, 10 Sunny Ridge Parkway
Marty Isaac, 50 Skating Pond Road
Bob Abercrombie, 10 Pleasant Street
Bill O'Keefe, 100 Shelton Road (Nichols Fire Department)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Chairman Bellows suspended the regular meeting to allow for public comment.

Mr. Meyer appeared before the Commission to ask why ice skating is not allowed on the ponds at Unity park. Mr. Paris explained that those ponds contain organic material that create heat, which does not allow the water to freeze completely. The ponds do not freeze consistently enough to allow for safe skating. The upper pond at Beach Memorial Park is available for skating.

Mr. Isaac thanked the Commission and Parks Department for their continued efforts on pickleball courts. He mentioned being involved in an incident with a nonresident on an unreserved court and offered to answer any questions the Commissioners may have, however, there were none. He also noted that policies for court use would be helpful.

Mr. Abercrombie asked if the Parks department would consider reserving times for seniors to play pickleball. The Commission suggested he email Mr. Paris with any requests or ideas to consider as the department finalizes the policies for pickleball.

Mr. O'Keefe represented the Nichols Fire Department in their request for a permit to hold their open house. The permit was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department prior to the meeting.

MOTION to close public comment made by Mr. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Travisano. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to accept meeting minutes of August 8 made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Commission asked Mr. Paris to address the issues of field trips into Old Mine Park. He explained that the Commission had previously aligned itself with CT state geological ordinances, which state that collection of rocks and minerals is not permitted. He added that a field trip to the park without mining or collection of samples was offered but rejected by the requester. Regarding the issue of buses, Mr. Paris explained that per a Town ordinance, buses are not allowed in the parks, however a solution would have been found to allow the field trip.

Mr. Martin offered to contact DEEP to inquire about mitigating and remedying damage caused by bicycles to the Pequonnock Trail.

Mr. Martin reported that revenues from Ranger-issued fines are collected and sent to the Finance Department. A message was left for that department as well.

The Commission also discussed the topic of ice-skating on various Town properties. Mr. Paris reiterated that several of the ponds are quite deep and with inconsistent winter weather, the danger is that ponds would not be safely frozen. He suggested the Commission engage the Town Attorney in the discussion.

Mr. Martin brought forth a motion to bring a resolution to the Town Council to designate Dogwood Lake as a Town park. Mr. Paris suggested the Commission examine all Town-owned parcels. Mr. Travisano added that if the Commission brought a resolution to the Town Council, they should consider multiple parcels to be brought under the Commission's purview. After further discussion, the motion was not seconded.

MOTION made to approve Nichols Fire Department permit request made by Mr. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Martin. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Commission discussed the correspondence regarding a rugby league in Town. The organizers would have to adhere to the Town Field Use Policy, and any requests for group status would be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Martin inquired about the shrub donation mentioned in the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Paris explained that a local church group has generously donated native shrubs, which will be placed near the volleyball courts at Unity Park.

Mr. Martin requested again that future Ranger Reports include more specifics on damages reported in Town Parks. Mr. Paris explained that in once incident, the restrooms were opened for a permitted event, however they were opened too early, resulting in some vandalism. He also added that the portable toilets placed in the park are unfortunately now being used as trash receptacles.

MOTION to adjourn made by Ms. Lamy, seconded by Mr. Ritacco. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel