

HARTFORD PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES

April 20, 2023 @ 5:03 pm *Meeting called to order by* David M. Crocco Jr.

Commission Members In Attendance

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Nikki Boyle, Tom McCleary, Mike Vanasse, David M. Crocco Jr., Brett Mayfield,

Commission Members Absent

Allison Childs

Others in Attendance

Mary Erdei, Select Board liaison, Scott Hausler, Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Brett Mayfield. Seconded by: Nikki Boyle

In Favor unanimous Opposed none

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report*

Scott reported that Spring and Summer guide is out. The Wendell Barwood Arena is shut down for the season. Ground crews working hard preparing all sports fields in town parks for Spring and Summer sports seasons.

Scott mentioned a mix-up on lining of lacrosse sports fields at Kilowatt and Maxfield. The contractor uses a remote-controlled robot, and the contractor might have been given incorrect dimensions for lining of fields. The problem should be resolved with new lining.

The after-school programs continue. Spring break programs went well.

The kayak trailers have been put out at Kilowatt north. Kayaks will be used on the Connecticut river above the Wilder dam. Kayaks will be deployed on the river using EZ-dock, docking system at Kilowatt south and north.

Tree and bush pruning continues along town thoroughfares. Bushes and trees 25' from center line of roads and streets are towns responsibility.

Scott reported that there are currently 32 applicants for the full-time Administrative Assistant job. He thinks this list can be quickly whittled down to 6 or 8 applicants. It is expected that Karen will remain in her job after the new employee is hired.

*See Directors Parks & Recreation Department Significant Activity Report of March 17th, 2023.

Old Business

Committee reviewed 2023 Department Goals and Objectives Town Master Plan Goals Strategies & Actions. Special attention given to Goal #9. Scott says there are discussions between Rec. Department and Hartford School District for how to better disburse Brian Hanson Scholarship funds. The goal is to ensure children in need are able to access summer programs regardless of family financial status. It was suggested that parents may not be aware of scholarship money. The discussion centers on a plan for how to best spread the word to parents on the availability of scholarship money for summer recreation programs and to get parents to apply for the scholarships.

A motion was made by Brett Mayfield and seconded by Nikki Boyle to accept the 2023 Department Goals and Objectives Town Master Plan Goals Strategies & Actions. And the vote to accept was unanimous.

A motion was made by Brett Mayfield and seconded by Nikki Boyle to accept the Risk Management Manual. And the vote to accept was unanimous.

New Business

Brett Mayfield brought up the subject of a recent occurrence of syringes being discovered in town parks. He stated that 8 syringes were recently discovered in Watson Park. Some of the syringes were found in a jar. A discussion followed about whether syringe disposal containers should/could be placed in town parks. There was some concern expressed about disposal containers being accessed by kids to take out disposed syringes for re-use. Also, could this encourage IV drug use in parks.

Currently, there are no local agencies giving out syringes. Doctors do give out syringes to patients in medical need.

The Upper Valley Haven has a needle collection container and there is one at the police station. Other towns in the state have syringe collection points.

Brett Mayfield has brought the issue up to the Community Action Committee.

Brett suggested this subject should be an agenda item for the next meeting under new business.

There was a discussion on Community Center survey questions and identifying contributors to the planning and building of a Community Center. Dave Crocco read the 9 possible survey questions he came up with. Brett Mayfield stated that he developed 5 similar questions. Dave stated that survey questions could be provided on Google Docs for others to peruse. Also, it was stated among committee members that comments directly to Dave could be made. However, per state requirements no discussion among members is allowed and no action can be taken.

It was suggested that contributors to the Community Center should be willingly to give financial support, have influence in town and/or be passionate about the town's recreational activities.

Next Meeting

Thursday May 11, 2023, 5 pm, Town of Hartford Municipal Building, 2nd floor.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by:

Nikki Boyle

Seconded by:

Brett Mayfield

All in Favor: Unanimous:

Opposed:

6:16 pm meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: _____, Thomas McCleary

Date: 4/21/2023

Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Chair: David M. Crocco Jr. (7/25/2024)

Clerk: Tom McCleary (03/08/2024)

Member: Allison Childs (04/04/2025)

Member: Nikki Boyle (04/04/2025)

Member: Michael Vanesse (05/02/2025)

Member: Brett Mayfield (05/16/2025)

Vacant: (1 position)