

**Hartford Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Thursday March 10, 2022**

**5 pm**

**Hartford Town Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary, Michael Vanasse, Allison Childs, David Crocco

**Others in Attendance:** Mary Erdei, Selectboard Liaison, Matt Osborne, Kye Cochran (Resilient Hartford Chair), Karen Ganey (Permaculture Solutions, LLC [www.permaculturesolutions.org](http://www.permaculturesolutions.org)), Nikki Boyle, guest, Scott Hausler, Director

Meeting called to order: 5:01 pm by Brett Mayfield

The February minutes were approved.

**Citizen Comments:** none

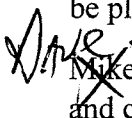
**Commission Member Comments:** none

**Presentation by Resilient Hartford – Clifford Park Food Forest Project**

Karen Ganey: Presentation of goals, design qualities and aims of the ongoing Clifford Park Food Forest Project. This project for the transformation of the Clifford Park Recreational area will continue in the 2022 warm season. Pages of materials were distributed to commission members. Materials summarized goals and design qualities for this project. Also, included were overlays of the kinds and location of trees planted in 2021 and of trees to be planted in 2022.

Much help has been received for the furtherance of this project by many community volunteers, planting, watering of trees and general support. Tree Board members aware of this project and available to assist.

Next community tree planting is scheduled for April 30, 2022. It was reported that 12 trees are to be planted.

 Mike Crocco made a motion to support the design, goals and aims of this project, as presented and commission members unanimously approved the motion.

**Directors Reports for February 18, 2022:** Full Directors Reports attached.

Red Zone 5 K race – well attended, over 100 people registered and 88 completed the race.

Ice fishing derby wet, but also well attended – 80 registered participants.

There were 17 total applicants for part-time Administrative Assistant position, 8 returned questionnaire and 2 applicants interviewed. Both interviews went well.

April's vacation camp already full, 18 on waitlist.

The BOR skating season winding down. The last public skate is Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Scott gave a brief reprise of the BOR's ownership and management by the Town of Hartford. Operation of the BOR is a general fund cost for the Town of Hartford. Use of the BOR is shared with the Town of Hartford school district. And in return, school shares its facilities for activities sponsored by Recreation Department.

### **Old Business**

Community Center was discussed. Questionnaire results need to be further analyzed to sharpen focus for future inquiry into community desires around this project. It was stated that one goal of the town's Master Plan is for a Community Center to be built.

Pool project progresses – lounge chairs ordered; filling of Pool Supervisor position will be given more priority in anticipation of June pool opening, pool building nearing completion, all piping, tanks being connected, 8 weeks of interior work left to do, deck work and plastering on hold until warmer weather arrives. Anticipate 1<sup>st</sup> week of June for pool hand over to town from contractor.

There was some discussion about the naming of the new pool in reference to Sherman Manning, name of old pool. Possibility was discussed of a plaque honoring the Sherman Manning name, being placed where visible to the public at the new pool. No decision was made.

Goals and Objectives for Recreation Department discussed. Brett Mayfield proposed, and it was agreed by committee members to let Recreation Department staff review and give suggestions for changes at next commission meeting in April.

### **New Business**

Mary Erdei appointed selectboard member liaison to the Recreation Commission.

### **Agenda Items for Next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**

Community Center

Pool Project

Review of Program Plan, Strategic Plan and Goals and Objectives

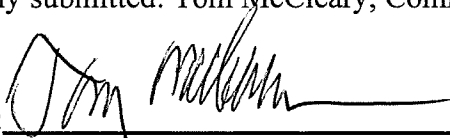
Spring and summer programs review and fall activities.

Motion to adjourn and all accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Next Meeting April 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Tom McCleary, Commission Secretary

Signed By:  \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 4/7/22

**Parks & Recreation Department**  
**Significant Activity Report**  
**February 18th, 2022**  
**Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director**

**Program and Park Highlights**

- A new afterschool program will be starting soon. VINS Afterschool Program has 9 out of 13 slots already filled. The Department is collaborating with VINS and will pick up the kids at the elementary schools and then deliver them with our van to VINS. VINS will provide professional instruction for the program.
- The Department has started working on the Spring/Summer Program Guide. Karen McNall completes all the design work in-house. We anticipate this work to take a couple weeks to complete.
- The Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Dewey's Pond was a success despite the weather. The registration and awards had to be moved to the parking area due to the slush and snow that blanketed about 8 inches of ice. The slush was caused by the weight of the snow on the ice. We had just over 80 youth anglers part of the event. Weather conditions had us end the event about 45 minutes earlier. 30 fish were caught with the largest being a 24inch Northern Pike.
- Hearts in the Parks started the weekend before February Vacation. Hearts are scattered throughout the parks system and each heart has a trivia question to be answered and submitted to the Department.
- The Ledyard RedZone 5k was held on Super Bowl Eve with 88 runners completing the race. We appreciate the Department of Public Works assisting with getting the pedestrian path in great shape for runners and the Hartford Police Department for road crossing assistance and the Hartford Fire Department for being on hand for any medical needs. We also had a great crew of volunteers that supported the race as timers, course workers and handling registrations.
- February Vacation Camp was held at the Hartford Middle School. 26 children were enrolled. This was a max enrollment due to limited staffing to run the program. We could have easily increased enrollment with additional staff.
- We have advertised for the Part Time Administrative Position for the Department. Deadline for applications is February 16<sup>th</sup>. We already have 11 applications. We will be sending the applicants a questionnaire to be filled out. Once we evaluate the answers along with their resumes, we will look to schedule interviews.
- The WABA Arena is winding down operations as we start the month of February. High School Hockey Playoffs will be the first week of March and it appears both the boys and girls teams at HHS will be hosting quarterfinal games. Public skating continues to be very popular and well attended. Over the weekend of February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> we had public skating sales of over \$700. Staff continue to hear supportive comments from spectators and players that visit the facility and are very impressed with the cleanliness of the facility and the accommodating staff. Operationally, we have had some sensor issues with the refrigeration cubes. The primary trouble alarms are based on the continuous cold temps below 10 degrees and mostly when we have negative temperatures. Preferred Mechanical has worked with us in a software program to address how the cubes react to the temps once they cycle on.

**Parks & Recreation Department**  
**Significant Activity Report**  
**March 7th, 2022**  
**Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director**

**Program and Park Highlights**

- The Department received 17 applications for the Part Time Administrative Assistant Position. A questionnaire was distributed to all candidates to obtain a little more information from each of them. The questionnaire will be used for review and selection of interviews.
- As we gear up for the spring season, we are putting final touches all our spring program offerings. Program offerings will be in the soon to be published brochure. Final layout and design of the Spring and Summer Brochure has been a focus for staff the past several weeks.
- April Vacation Ventures Camp filled up within an hour of open registration. We were only able to take 26 participants due to staffing / camper ratios. We have a total of 18 on the waiting list.
- We have started our recruitment for seasonal hires at Summer Ventures and the Sherman Manning Aquatic Facility. All positions are seasonal.
- Lego Club, Solid Speed and Agility Program, Tiny Tots and Levels 1-2 Skating Lessons, Youth Karate, Open Basketball and Comics Class for Kids continues.
- The Wendell A Barwood Arena has entered the last three weeks of seasonal operation. The facility will be hosting High School Hockey Playoffs the first week of March as both the hockey teams are hosting playoff games. Our season will end with the Pot of Gold Tournament that is organized by the Woodstock Youth Hockey Association. This tournament hosts teams from all over New England and games are played at WABA, Union Arena in Woodstock and Champion Rink in Hanover over the weekend of March 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The Department will also host an Ice Out Public Skating Party on March 12<sup>th</sup> with music, games and snacks from 4pm to 6pm.
- Public Skating at WABA continues to be very popular. To date, season pass holders have 759 visits, we have sold 1939 daily admissions, rented 833 pair of skates, and sharpened 157 skates.
- The Department is working with Sustainability Coordinator, Dana Clawson on specifications for the replacement of R-1 Truck and addressing updated heating in the Zamboni bay and refrigeration room at the WABA Arena.
- With the new outdoor aquatic facility coming online this June, we have started purchasing some safety equipment, deck features and supplies as we ramp up and prepare for operations.

Clifford Park Food Forest  
 Species List/Budget, February, 2022

Quantity	Variety	Price/ea.	Total	Source
6	Aronia melanocarpa	\$35	\$210	Prospect Rock
12	Highbush Blueberry	\$45	\$540	EC Browns
8	Chestnuts	\$20	\$160	Jesse
15	Clethra alnifolia	\$25	\$375	EC Browns
10	Currants	\$25	\$250	EC Browns or cuttings
8	Elderberries	\$35	\$280	Prospect Rock or cuttings
12	Hazels (confirm specific variety) Perhaps propagating suckers from Ruth's or Pocket Park (P)	\$12	\$144	Jesse or Keith (Prospect Rock)
10	Josta berries	\$25	\$250	Prospect Rock
2	Mulberries	\$35	\$70	Elmore Roots
12	Serviceberries	\$35	\$420	Elmore Roots
3	Sour Cherries	\$35	\$105	Elmore Roots
2	Viburnum Trilobum	\$35	\$70	Elmore Roots
2	Hawthorn	\$45	\$90	Elmore Roots
3	Hearthnut	\$45	\$135	Prospect Rock
1	Linden	\$45	\$45	350.og
?	White Peach seedlings (very small)	0	0	Sylvia Davatz
3	Peach	\$75	\$225	EC Browns
3	Pears	\$55	\$165	EC Browns
8	Basket Willow	0	0	Sylvia Davatz
	Assorted perennials		\$250	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,784</b>	

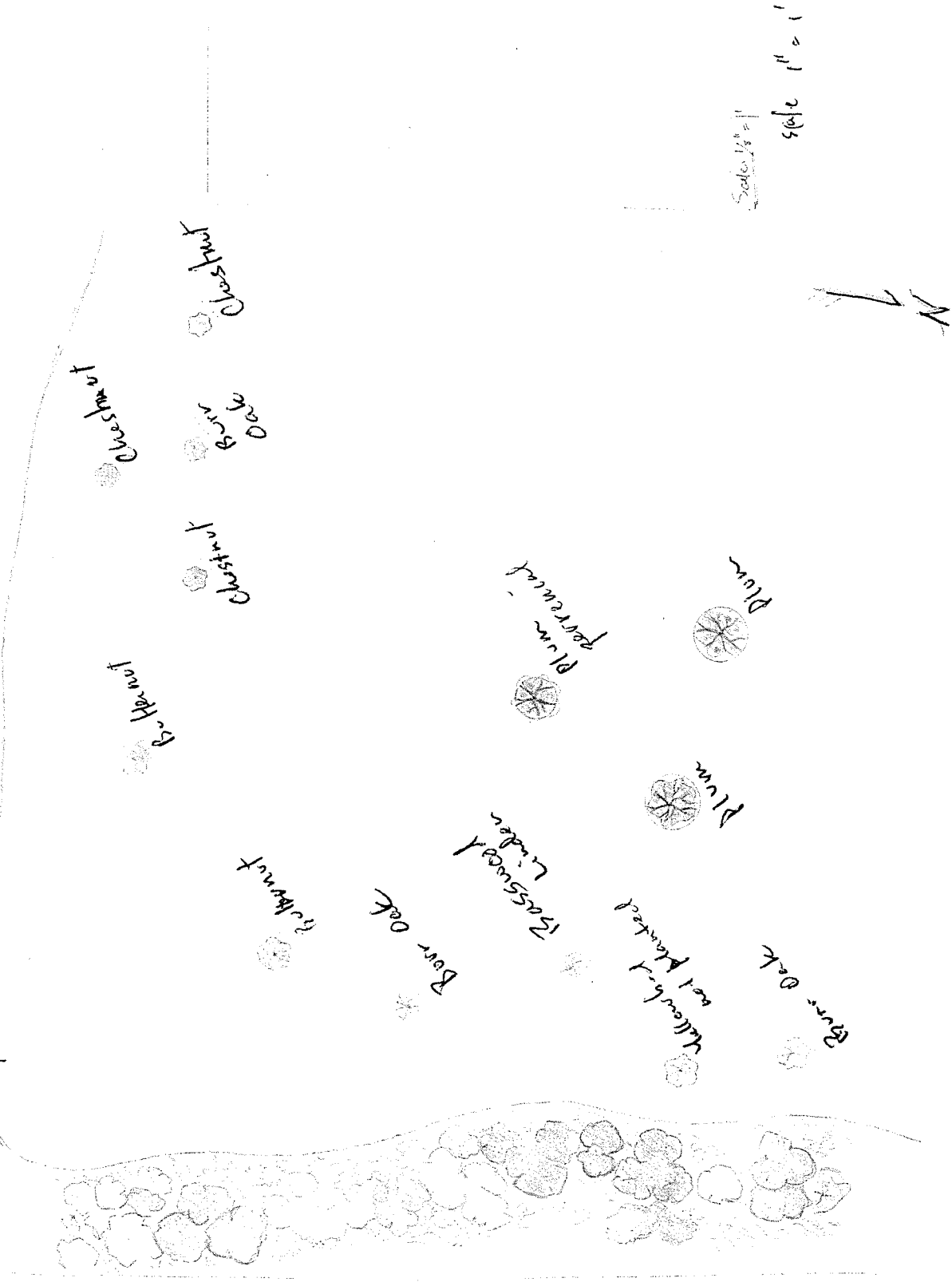
Notes on Variety:

Pears: 3 (perhaps a variety - 1 from TA ripens in August)

Basket willow: **Ruth will get cuttings from Sylvia D**

Hazels: Jefferson and Yamhill are good varieties

Clifford Park Food Forest 2021  
Clifford Park Food Forest 2021



Scale 1/8" = 1'



Clifford Park Fawn Forest: 2022 and beyond!

