



TOWN OF STRATFORD

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2021

The Parks & Recreation Committee conducted a virtual meeting on Thursday June 3, 2021 at Boothe Memorial Park, 5774 Main Street Putney, Stratford CT, pursuant to notice duly posted.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Gary Bauer
- Paul Hoydick
- Sean Kennedy
- Rick Marcone
- Bill O'Brien – 9th District Councilman and Chairman
- Ken Poisson – 6th District Councilman

TOWN REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

- Chad Esposito – Parks Superintendent
- Amy Knorr – Recreation Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O'Brien accepted a motion from Mr. Marcone to approve the minutes of the regular 5/6/2021 meeting. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Esposito reported the following current Parks Dept. projects:

- Columbus Ave. Tot Lot – This is nearing completion. The equipment has been ordered. The site work is being finalized so the contractor knows where to put the new playground and swing sets.
- Nichols School Playground – The equipment has been ordered, and is expected to arrive in 8-10 weeks. This will be the first elementary school with a pour-in-place rubber floor.

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STRATFORD TOWN CLERK

- Stonybrook Swing Set – The new swing set equipment has been ordered to replace the existing structure. The wood border will be removed and reset with a plastic one. The playground border will be shortened to be in compliance of “use” zones associated with the playground layout. New benches will be installed in the area.
- High Park – The new swing set equipment has been ordered to replace the existing structure, and will be moved closer to the playground area. New benches will be installed
- Lordship School – The new swing set equipment has been ordered to replace the existing structure, and is expected to arrive in 8-10 weeks.
- Great Meadows Park – Rayzor’s Edge, the Town tree contractor, will be removing the remaining stumps and will cut back and trim the fence line plant material from Woodend Road down to Access Blvd. Once complete, the sidewalk damage will be repaired.
- Motil Pond Park Cleanup – A group of volunteers led by Ron Tichy will perform a park cleanup in June. The group will leave debris bags in a pre-determined location to be picked up by Parks Dept. staff.
- Short Beach Park – The massive cracks in the basketball courts are scheduled to be repaired. Mr. Esposito is obtaining quotes to change the two basketball and two tennis courts to post tension concrete. The existing asphalt courts can act as the base for the new concrete courts. The remaining six courts, fence and asphalt will be demolished and removed.
- Juliette Low Park – The existing asphalt walk paths will be redone. An additional perimeter walk path will be created for exercise and accessibility throughout the park. The small pavilion in front of the new pavilion will be removed. Benches will be placed on all walk paths. Plants and trees will be added to the back wood fence for privacy and beautification of the park
- Longbrook Tennis Courts – The base bid will include four post tension concrete courts, as well as new black perimeter fencing. The batting cage will be relocated. Some trees will be removed, but far less than would have been if a different court orientation were chosen. Stratford HS colors will be used for the courts. They will have pickleball lines. An add-alternate will be LED light bases or a complete LED light system if the residents and budget allow for them. The project is moving forward at a steady speed. The test plots must be dug, so the engineer builds the necessary work. An 8-24 Review application must be submitted and approved through the Planning and Zoning Commissions, and then the Town Council. Additionally, a contractor must be chosen.

IV. REPORT OF THE RECREATION SUPERINTENDANT

Ms. Knorr reported the following:

Programs

- Summer Programs
 - Summer Camps Registration underway. Full in 3 of 5 playground camps
 - Sports camps are slower with enrollment. We have joined with PAL and Mark Harrison for football camp June 28th.
 - Staff is hired. Training will begin week of June 14th for supervisors.
 - Adult Co-ed Beach Volleyball and Men’s Softball are underway.

- Spring programs will conclude in 2 weeks.
- Ella Grasso Pool
 - Open Monday – Friday We have added swimmers (8 swimmers per shift) (2 to 3 shifts per day)
 - Swim Lessons will resume in July.
- Pickle ball/Tennis and Paddle Tennis Reservations
 - Residents only can reserve Flood Tennis courts and Longbrook Paddle Tennis for 2 hours each day. Flood school does not want people on school property during the day, so we have blocked until after school hours.

Beaches:

- Beaches are open. Sticker checkers began May 28th
- Lifeguards on Duty weekends only until June 18th
- Concession stand having bands weekends 1p-6p

Beach Sticker

- New Resident stickers will go out in tax bills in July.
- We are promoting Beach Sticker policy and how to get a sticker on town website and Social media

Pavilion Rentals

- Pavilion rentals are very busy this year.
- Most pavilions at Boothe and Short Beach are booked weekends through the summer.

Summer Jobs Posted/Volunteers

- All staff and volunteers will begin training week of June 14th

Permits/Use of Property Major Upcoming Events:

- June 5th Main Street Festival
- June 11th Sterling House benefit concert @Shakespeare (rain date June 12th)
- June 21st Make Music Day @ Shakespeare
- June 22nd Summer concert @ Paradise Green
- June 25th Movies at Short Beach
- July 1 Fireworks/ July 2 Rain date

Boat Ramp Stickers:

- New Boat stickers for 2021 are in. We are mailing to those who send application and fee to office. They are also available at Boardwalk and Hitchcock Marinas.

Use of Town Buildings:

- No one will be allowed to use town buildings for rentals.
- Birdseye is open for Covid Vaccinations Only

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Knorr received a request to rename one of the fields at Clover Park in memory of the late TJ Doherty, a Stratford resident who volunteered with Stratford Baseball

Association, Sterling House, and PAL. Upon discussion, members agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

- Ms. Knorr received a request from the Stratford HS Girls Softball team, requesting a place in Town to plant sunflowers. They will work with local Girl Scouts to ensure the flowers are watered. Mr. Esposito will determine if a plot is available at the community garden.
- Mr. Poisson suggested the Rec. Dept. volleyball games be determined as a win or loss, since a third game is only played if each team wins a game. Ms. Knorr will look into the matter.
- Mr. O'Brien noted the Brakettes first game will be June 4, during which there will be a ceremony naming the press box after Hal Baird.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance regarding Beach Sticker Attendants – No discussion was held.
- Mr. Poisson suggested adding striped, asphalt parking spaces by the Longbrook tennis courts.

VII. NEXT MEETING – ~~Thursday July 1, 2021 at 6:00pm~~

Per Chairman O'Brien, this meeting will be cancelled, as the Town fireworks are the same night.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Brien accepted a motion by Mr. Hoydick to adjourn at 6:53pm. Mr. Marcone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh

Recording Secretary