



**Waterford Recreation and Parks Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 - 4:30 pm  
Waterford Community Center**

The Recreation and Parks Commission held a regular scheduled meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at the Waterford Community Center. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman E. Murphy and a quorum was established.

**Members in attendance** : L. Beaney, R. Erricson, J. Gregg, M. Gwudz, E. Murphy, N. Scheiber, T. Stino

**Members Absent** : M. Chiappone, T. Santos

**Staff**: R. McNamara (Director), T. Cieplik (Program Coordinator), and E. Sullivan (Office Coordinator)

**Guests**: R. Tuneski - Finance Liason; L. Wolfley - RISE

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** :

**(Motion #1)** - Made by R. Erricson and seconded by L. Beaney to approve the minutes of the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting. So voted 5-0-2 abstain

**Public Comments**:

- L. Wolfley, member from RISE (Residence for Inclusion and Social Equity) joined the meeting to find out what our vision, mission and goals and if Waterford Recreation and Parks takes diversity, equity and inclusion into consideration. R. McNamara let her know we 100% provide every single opportunity to every individual. T. Cieplik will forward the new logo and also the vision and mission statements.

**Correspondence**:

- Thank you letters from Connie Murphy about swim program, Shirley Brockway for use of pavilions, Paul Cascio for the cleanup at Ridgewood Park, Joseph Mariani (American Legion) for maintenance of high school fields, and Kim Allen (Finance Director) information in regards to the wifi at the gatehouse and thank you for helping with the new financial policies.

**Other Correspondence**:

- None

**STAFF REPORTS**:

**Director R. McNamara** - Current budget expenditures: Munis reports spending of \$304,225 / General Fund revenues: Munis reports revenue of \$36,671 and Special Revenue is \$26,000.

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Haley Ward has finalized their plan for the Pleasure Beach accessible path. The amount came in exponentially higher than previously expected and quoted (\$145K). Working with Hinding and Classic for post-tensions court replacements. Basketball Court Repair Bids to be opened August 29, 2023 with the Purchasing Agent. Civic Triangle project plans have begun with tree removal and dredging/de-watering to occur once path is cleared to put mats down for machines to perform work. Waterford Beach Park Design Plan we are awaiting changes to design from engineer. Considering the relocation of the gatehouse. Looking into Big Belly Assessment for solar compacting trash cans. First Selectman is working with Economic Development Commission with the Alcohol Nip Beautification Fund. Our maintenance staff has almost completed the data collecting for the assessment. Community Center HVAC software improvements approved. New position will be in budget for Assistant Director. Finalizing Turner benches for Mago Point and Hamler bench is almost ready for WBP to put in. Two boat storage lockers for pickleball equipment at both WBP and Leary locations are in and also nets. Established meeting with baseball minds in town to review transition between levels and how to provide best opportunities next meeting will be August 31<sup>st</sup>. Aquatic operations being looked into and R. McNamara would like to discuss with M. Gwudz futher. Harvest Festival October 7<sup>th</sup> if any interest in having a table or being involved please let us know - T. Stino is looking into a truck for fall pictures at the event. Maintenance is handling all of the request and last minute emergencies and got the parade prepped to host double the activities and double the parade participants. Working on changing the seasonal next year April to September - we need additional maintainers. The lack of volunteers for the Quaker Hill ballfields will require more manpower. We will slowly begin transitioning to the WBP garage to allow for the Arnie Holmes pond work and Civic Triangle phases to proceed. A temporary road will be installed off of Rope Ferry to gain access. Herb Davis family donating a granite bench to the Historical Society at the Jordan Park green. **(Motion #2)** N. Scheiber made a motion and E. Murphy seconded to accept the Bench from the Davis family contingent that it is within our bench policy and codes for memorial benches. So voted 7-0. At Quaker Hill School there will be an electronic display board installed which will be a nice addition.

**Program Coordinator T. Cieplik** - Waterford parade was very successful and we came in contact with all departments at some point during the day. Concerts have been going very well with great attendance and weather has been very cooperative. Fall Brochure went out on August 12<sup>th</sup> with some mistakes we have been fixing but classes are expected to fill up. Programs will run September to November. Scheduling fields for Youth Football and Cheer are busy. American Legion looking to schedule at WHS field and Babe Ruth scheduled to use Leary this fall. Playground summer program was up 37% from last year and finished 2 weeks ago. Things went well, lots of positive feedback, no major issues and we have a lot of incoming feedback from parents and will compile data. We have a lot of programs that have done great this summer and will look into running them again. The new 3v2 basketball we would like to run this fall there were 65 kids registered this summer and it runs very well when 15 per age group show up. The new 5th-8th grade volleyball clinic at Clark Lane was a success and was run for the first time and was run by coach Jackie Bono with several volunteer staff and there were 24 participants. The new Fitter Faster swim clinic hosted at our pool had 96 slots available with 90 filled. The instructor for the program was former Olympian swimmer Tucker Dupree. Has won many medals at the Paralympic games over the past decade and holds several US and World records. The Dog Park committee is up and running and has had two meetings so far. There is a positive attitude and energy of 10 key volunteers who are looking to do some fundraising events as early as October.

Upcoming events - Harvest Festival October 7<sup>th</sup>, Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Masters Run December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tree lightings - December 8<sup>th</sup> at Jordan Park House and December 9<sup>th</sup> at Quaker Hill Green. Something new this year is Bright Lights and Spirted Nights town wide holiday decorating of homes.

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### Committee Reports:

- Nominating - None
- Personnel - None
- Youth Sports Council - discussed in Program Coordinators report
- Long Range Planning - 2020-2025 plan that will need updating soon. R.McNamara and J. Gregg will meet to do 2025-2030 before next commission meeting.
- Policies and procedures - None

### Representative Reports:

- Board of Ed - None
- Board of Finance - R. Tuneski shared there are a lot of in-series and out of series transfers happening
- Historical Society - (501c3) Nevin's cottage will be repaired
- O'Neil Theater - None
- Senior Services - None

### Properties:

- Work on all properties is ongoing with the school opening soon is the focus.

### Old Business:

- None

### New Business:

- None

### Adjournment:

**(Motion #3):**Made by R. Erricson and seconded by J. Gregg to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Sullivan, Office Coordinator  
Recreation and Parks Commission