



TOWN OF ESSEX
Park and Recreation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
Telephone (860) 767-4340 x110 • FAX (860) 767-8509

Regular Members

Robert Russo, Chairman
Anthony Mosa
Douglas Senn
Virginia Willetts
John Bean

Alternates

Daniel Needleman
Brette Fitton

Unapproved

MINUTES -Special Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2019

1. Call to Order and Attendance

The special meeting of the Essex Park & Recreation Commission was conducted on Tuesday, September 16, 2019, Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members:

Robert Russo
Virginia Willetts
John Bean
Dan Needleman, Alternate seated for A Mosa
Brette Fitton, Alternate seated for D Senn

Absent Members:

Anthony Mosa
Doug Senn

Staff:

Mary Ellen Barnes, Director Park and Rec

2. Attendance

R Russo called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and seated D Needleman for A Mosa and B Fitton for D Senn.

Seated for the meeting were R Russo, J Bean, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton.

3. Approval of June 4, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by V Willetts to approve the February 26, 2019 meeting Minutes as presented;

SECONDED; J Bean; **Voting In Favor:** R Russo, J Bean, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **No Discussion.**



4. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. Financial Reports

M Barnes provided an overview of the General Fund and the Program Revenue Fund and reviewed expenses.

MOTION made by D Needleman to approve the Financial Report as presented; **SECONDED**; V Willetts; **Voting In Favor**: R Russo, J Bean, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed**: None; **Abstaining**: None; **Approved**: 5/0/0. **No Discussion**.

6. Director's Report / Parks & Program

Park Events

- Ivoryton Village Green – Farmers Market until Sept. 28
- Ivoryton Village Green – Pumpkin Festival Oct. 19th
- Ivoryton Village Green – Pumpkin Run Oct. 19th
- Ivoryton Village Green – Ivoryton Illuminations – Dec. 7 * Lights until June 6th
- Main Street Park – St. John's Episcopal Church - Sept 29th
- Main Street Park – Wedding – Oct. 5
- Main Street Park – Board of Trade Scarecrow Festival
- Comstock Park – Essex Little League – Fall Ball until Oct. 2019

Fall 2019 Programming

Registration currently being accepted for all fall and winter programming - Running Rams, Tennis, basketball Engineering, cooking, Dance Zumba.

Parks Update

Main Street Park - Professional Field Care is working to establish a grass area in the area of the Japanese Knotwood remediation. Completion expected this fall. M Barnes is also working with Garden Club, DPW & the Tree Warden to do some general maintenance of overgrowth along embankment as well as planting beds.

Grove Park – Tim LaChance received his playground inspection certification. An inspection is planned for this fall.

Tennis Courts – Two Essex residents inquired about converting the tennis courts to accommodate Pickle Ball – and if that is not feasible, utilize the basketball courts, or construct new courts.



Tim LaChance spoke to the Department's tennis pro/ long-time tennis instructor, Gary Ribchinsky and the consensus was that based on the expanse of our tennis community and the fact that currently there are only two courts, it would be best not to convert the courts. The demand for the use of both pickle ball and tennis could not be met. M Barnes invited residents to attend a Park and Rec Commission Meeting to further discuss.

Dickinson Park- No Updates.

Sunset Pond - No Updates.

Ivoryton Green- The new roof for the Ivoryton Gazebo is complete. M Barnes noted that Covone Construction did a great job.

M Barnes reported that she is in process of obtaining quotes to paint the gazebo and it is her hope to have that work completed before the Pumpkin Festival. M Barnes stated that there is some money available that was encumbered from the general fund which will offset the cost utilizing the general fund.

Comstock Park- Professional Field Care has completed the conversion of Comstock to a multi-use field. It is now an intermediate boys' baseball and softball field. Essex Little League is currently hosting several fall teams utilizing the new modification.

Clark's Pond- No Updates.

Viney Hill Brook Park- M Barnes reported that she is currently working with DPW to do some extensive maintenance, mulching brush removal, curbing, etc. of the active recreation area.

Hubbard Park- M Barnes reported that Hubbard was utilized for the EHS Oldtimers baseball practice. The vintage baseball game is Sunday, 9/22/19 at 2pm.

7. Old Business

- D Needleman reported that he obtained quotes for a ventilation tarp for Hubbard. The Park and Rec Department is looking for a purchase this upcoming fall. Mary Ellen Barnes will contact the vendor.

8. New Business

MOTION made by D Needleman to cease water quality testing and to loom and seed the beach area at Viney Hill Brook; **SECONDED**; J Bean; **Voting In Favor:** R Russo, J Bean, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **No Discussion.**



It was noted that the larger field in Comstock is in immediate need of remediation. M Barnes is working with Professional Field Care and Essex Little League to evaluate scope and requirements, and the cost of the project to include prices for Ventilated tarp, score board, mound tarp, home plate tarp and a new net for the batting cage.

9. Commission Overview

Robert Russo notified the Commission that he is resigning as Commission Chair, effective immediately. R Russo stated that he has really enjoyed serving on the Commission, however due to personal demands he is no longer able to serve.

M Barnes stated for the record that under Bob's leadership the Park and Rec Department and the Park and Rec Commission has established itself as an asset to our Community. It was with his support that allowed the Essex Park and Rec to grow into an organization that is well regarded by our residents, non profits, school administration and other local entities. M Barnes stated that Mr. Russo will be greatly missed.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. General Discussion

M Barnes reviewed the list of duties and the timeline for the Pumpkin Festival.

This year's Grand Marshal for the Essex go Bragh event was discussed.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by V Willetts to adjourn the special meeting at 8:00 pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B; **SECONDED**; D Needleman; **Voting In Favor**: R Russo, V Willetts J Bean, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed**: None; **Abstaining**: None; **Approved**: 5/0/0. **No Discussion**.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella A Caione
Recording Secretary

