



TOWN OF ESSEX
Park and Recreation Commission

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

Regular Members

Brette Fitton, Chairman
Anthony Mosa
Virginia Willetts
John Bean
Daniel Needleman

Alternates

Carolyn Field
Vacancies

Unapproved

MINUTES - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

1. Call to Order and Attendance

The Regular Meeting of the Essex Park & Recreation Commission was conducted on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 6:00 p.m. Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members:

Brette Fitton
Virginia Willetts
Daniel Needleman
John Bean
Carolyn Field, Alternate

Absent Members:

Anthony Mosa
Daniel Needleman

Staff:

Mary Ellen Barnes, Director Park and Rec
Stella Caione, Recording Clerk

2. Attendance

B Fitton called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and seated were B Fitton, V Willetts, D Needleman, J Bean, C Field seated for Anthony Mosa.

3. Approval of January 7, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by V Willetts to approve the January 7, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes as presented;
SECONDED; J Bean; **Voting In Favor**: D Needleman, J Bean, V Willetts, B Fitton, C Field; **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 reviewed expenses, noting that the Department has expended 58.90% of their budget funding for this fiscal year. There are proposed expenditures which will be further discussed at this meeting.

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

6. Director's Report / Parks & Program

Parks & Program Updates:

Park Events

- **Essex go Bragh** – Scheduled for 3/21/2020. M Barnes stated that she will need assistance with parking. M Barnes asked that Commissioners arrive no later than 9:30am. Grove Street will be closed during the event. M Barnes stated that Robert Russo is the Person of the Week and he will serve as Grand Marshal for the Essex go Bragh parade. The Middletown Police bagpipe band will perform and the Sailing Masters will participate. The Community Music School will do an activity in the park. The Hartford Yardgoat Mascot will be at the parade and Little Pub will also be involved.
- **Buddy Basketball** – M Barnes reported that this was a very successful program that started on January 5th and is now completed.
- **Adult Yoga** – M Barnes reported that this is a highly successful and participants are maxed out every program.
- **Easter Egg Hunt**
Scheduled for April 10, 2020 at 10:00a.m. The egg hunt will be broken up into two age-based groupings, the event will move forward, rain or shine. Kindergarten aged children will start closest to the playground.
- **Spring/Summer 2020 Brochure**

M Barnes commented on the Spring/Summer programs noting a few changes.



Returning favorites; Running Rams, Tennis, Archery, Cooking along with a few new programs to include Dance, German Culture and Photography and Letter writing. The 7 weeks of Summer Camp will offer new and exciting themes and field trips.

M Barnes reported that the tennis courts and Viney Hill Brook will open April 1st. There are two newly installed horseshoe pits in the beach area.

Parks Update

Main Street Park

An intensive Fall Cleanup was done in December.

Grove & Tennis Courts

Tennis Court will open April 1st for the season.

Dickinson Park

No updates.

Sunset Pond

No updates.

Ivoryton Green

No updates.

Comstock Park

Quote received for upgrades to the Babe Ruth field.

Clark's Pond

No Updates.

Viney Hill Brook Park

Two Horseshoe pits will be installed.

Hubbard Park

The new solar energy tarp has been installed on the infield.

7. Old Business

a. Updates to Comstock Babe Ruth Field Remediation Project



M Barnes reported that the funding of this project through the operating budget has been approved and she will meet with Joe Kuzaro this week. Joe Kuzaro has recommended closure of the big field due to safety concerns until such time that it is restored to a safe playable surface and the team has been notified that the field is unplayable at this time, and until such time that the project is completed.

b. Updates to Signage

At the December 2019 meeting it was suggested to move forward with the unification of all the Town parks utilizing the same signage format and insignia denoting the individual park names on the top portion of the sign. Possible notation at Park entrance of no allowance of tobacco and notation that the park closes at sunset with the remainder of the rules outlined on the Park and Rec website. M Barnes reported that the sign company is not available to begin this project at this time and there is no update.

8. New Business

The Town is sponsoring a community clean-up day on April 18, 2020 from 9am to 11am. This project is being spearheaded the first selectman's office with the intent to promote community-wide participation.

9. Commission Overview

Carolyn Field newly appointed alternate member to the Park and Rec Commission introduced herself and provided background. Members welcomed Carolyn to the Commission.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. General Discussion

There was no discussion.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by V Willetts to adjourn at 6:30 pm to the Regular Meeting scheduled to be conducted on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B; **SECONDED**; J Bean; **Voting In Favor**: D Needleman, J Bean, V Willetts, B Fitton C Field; **Opposed**: None; **Abstaining**: None; **Approved**: 5/0/0. **No Discussion.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stella A. Caione

Stella A. Caione, Recording Clerk

