



TOWN OF ESSEX
Park and Recreation Commission

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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, February 26, 2019

Call to Order and Attendance

A special meeting of the Essex Park & Recreation Commission was conducted on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, Room B of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members:

Robert Russo
Virginia Willetts
Dan Needleman, Alternate seated for J Bean
Brette Fitton, Alternate seated for D Senn

Absent Members:

Anthony Mosa
John Bean
Doug Senn

Staff:

Mary Ellen Barnes, Park & Recreation Director
Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk

R Russo called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

Approval of December 4, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by B Fitton to approve the December 4, 2018 meeting Minutes as presented;
SECONDED; D Needleman; **Voting In Favor:** R Russo, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **No Discussion.**

1. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.



2. Financial Reports

M Barnes reported that she applied for a FEMA grant and awaiting notification of approval.

General Fund- M. Barnes provided an overview of General Fund and reviewed expenses.

Program Revenue Fund - M Barnes provided an overview of the Program Revenue Fund a/o December 2018 and reviewed programs, noting that this fund remains in the black.

Miscellaneous Programming - M Barnes reported that the miscellaneous programming Includes all of those activities outside of basketball, tennis and track. These programs continue to bring in a good revenue.

MOTION made by V Willetts to approve the Financial Report as presented; **SECONDED**; D Needleman; **Voting In Favor**: R Russo, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed**: None; **Abstaining**: None; **Approved**: 4/0/0. **No Discussion**.

Director's Report / Parks & Program

a. Essex Go Bragh – March 9, 2019

M Barnes stated that Grove Street will be closed by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the parade. Several boats are involved in this year's parade; CT Boat Show, CT River Museum and a third participant.

M Barnes reported that in the event that the weather is inclement, the parade will be canceled with no snow date.

b. Essex Egg Hunt – April 13, 2019

M Barnes reported there over 2,000 eggs and Tim LaChance will orchestrate the egg hunt.

PARK EVENTS

Essex Little League Opening Day is April 27, 2019. M Barnes distributed a photo of the new score board which is being purchased for installation in Hubbard Park, and should be up by opening day.

Buddy Basketball – There are 40 players and 40 buddies and the program is completely community supported with volunteer coaches and "Buddies".

New Program Intro Dance – M Barnes reported that the demand was great, and the first session maxed out. A second session started today and another session will begin in April 2019.



Adult Yoga – M Barnes reported that the Adult Yoga program continues to be very well attended noting that the current session is full with 20 participants

Spring/Summer 2019 Programming

M Barnes reported that the 2019 Spring Summer Brochure has been published – We are looking forward to some returning favorites, Running Rams, Tennis, Archery, Cooking and new ones – Dance, German Culture and Photography and Golf. 7 weeks of Summer Camp with some new and exciting themes and field trips.

Summer Camp schedule, themes and field trips are set – we are going to CT Science Center, Hammonasset, Old Newgate Prison & Copper mind, a SUNS WMBA game, Cedar Lake and the New England Air Museum. New Themes this year are Dirty jobs, and Creatures of Flight.

Essex go Bragh – March 9th– John & Judy Heiser have agreed to be this year's Grand Marshals

PARKS UPDATE

Main Street Park

- No updates.

Grove & Tennis Courts –

- In previous meetings the Commission has discussed options to expand Grove Street Park and the feasibility of installing a flash pad. M Barnes reported that there is an underground stream at Grove Street Park that would not be conducive for the installation of an interactive fountain/splash pad. M Barnes noted that once cement is poured, it will eventually crack and there is no prospect of installing a fountain in that location.

Dickinson Park

- No updates.

Sunset Pond

- Minor Maintenance around the pond to remove invasives which will be done by Essex Department of Public Works, contingent on Inland Wetland Approval.

Ivoryton Green

- No updates.

Comstock Park

- M Barnes reported that the score board was tested to ensure there was no damage due to the flooding.



Clark's Pond

- No updates.

Viney Hill Brook Park

- No updates.

Hubbard Park

- Essex Little League has purchased a new score board for Hubbard to be installed in time for Opening Day which is scheduled for April 27, 2019.
- Dan Needleman will speak with the groundskeeper to discuss the use of tarps to protect the ground over the winter months.

New Business

There was no new business.

Commission Overview

M Barnes reported that there are no significant changes for next year's budget. M Barnes stated that she will look for an additional \$1500 to cover the cost of maintenance and interval clean-ups of the flower beds in the Main Street Park. Capitol fund has been reduced to \$25,000 in order to keep budget at a minimal increase.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. General Discussion

There was no further discussion.

8. Adjournment

MOTION made by V Willets to adjourn the special meeting at 7:38 pm to the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room B; **SECONDED**; D Needleman; **Voting In Favor**: R Russo, V Willetts, D Needleman, B Fitton; **Opposed**: None; **Abstaining**: None; **Approved**: 4/0/0. **No Discussion.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary

