

**MINUTES – GLASTONBURY RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – November 16, 2020**

The Glastonbury Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020, by Zoom Video Conferencing.

Commission Members Present on Zoom Meeting: John Langmaid, Yola Rondinelli, Jessica Wallace, Corey Turner and Ellen Saunig

Commission Members Absent: Mario DiLoreto

Others Present on Zoom Meeting: Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks & Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Correspondence:

Correspondence was received and discussed.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the September 21 2020 regular meeting were approved unanimously with one change being requested under Item 6, change “an adult **kayaking** program” to “an adult **rowing** program”.

3. Committee Reports:

There were no Committee Reports.

4. Director’s Report:

- New Park Maintainer: Lisa Zerio advised the Commission that Joshua LeClair was hired as our new Park Maintainer 1 and started working on Monday, November 9th. Joshua resides in Newington, Connecticut.
- Eagle Scout Projects: Deven Vincelette re-blazed trails at J.B. Williams Park and made new trail brochures for the kiosk. John Nardone will be re-blazing Blackledge Falls and will also be doing signage for the trails.
- Splash Pad Update: Lisa advised that the electrical and plumbing engineers have been at the site and the project is moving forward. The Town will be ordering the equipment by December 1st before an increase in pricing goes into effect.
- STEAP Grant: The Town of Glastonbury received \$128,205 in funding for the Tree Management Program.

5. New Business:

- Status Update on Programs Due to Covid-19:

Lisa Zerio stated that the department has been working closely with the Health Department to ensure that our current programs are following the CDC guidelines. The Santa’s run has been postponed due to the latest spike in numbers.

The Department will be looking into the feasibility of utilizing the outdoor basketball and volleyball courts for programs in the spring for both youths and adults.

A discussion ensued about not being able to utilize the schools for programs. Lisa advised that the goal is to keep students healthy and in school as it would be a hardship for families with working parents. John Langmaid has expressed his opinion to the Board of Education that the decision to not utilize the schools

should not be up to the superintendent. Jessica Wallace stated that these are very challenging times and we need to keep people safe.

- Upcoming Special Events/Programs:

The Department has planned a Holiday Decorating Contest and a Holiday Letter Program. The Holiday Decorating Contest will allow citizens to bring out lights, wreaths, bows, characters and more to show they have the best decorated house in town. While the Holiday Letters Program will encourage children to write letters with their holiday wishes to Santa, the reindeer, the Mensch on the Bench, Frosty the Snowman, or any holiday figure they choose, and they will receive a letter back in the mail.

- Budget FY 21-22:

The budget preparation is well underway. There will be scheduled meetings for the Capital Improvement Program in January and budget workshops in February.

- Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule - 2021:

The 2021 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule was approved unanimously.

6. Old Business:

- Cotton Hollow Update: At the October 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting the Town Code Chapter 14, Article 111 – Recreational Areas Use Regulations Proposed Amendments were approved. This included allowing all visitors to the preserve, as well as, some wordsmithing to the document.

7. Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission:

Yola Rondinelli asked in regards to the sidewalk project on Route 17, if the one area that is not complete, will be done. Lisa Zerio stated that she would check with Engineering on the status.

John Langmaid asked if the new property acquired from the MDC increases the scope of work for the Parks Department. Lisa Zerio responded, not at this point.

Jessica Wallace asked about future lights for the soccer field at Addison and how it would be beneficial if the young players were able to have the opportunity to play under the lights. John Langmaid suggested that Academy Field could possibly be used.

John Langmaid stated that there has been talk on social media about the potential of having food trucks at Riverfront Park. Lisa Zerio advised there is a permitting process and that process would need to be vetted out.

John Langmaid stated the new trail on House Street is excellent and well designed. Lisa Zerio said she would pass that on to the Town Manager and the Town Engineer. Discussion about adding garbage cans was then discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zerio
Director of Parks & Recreation