

MINUTES – GLASTONBURY RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING – September 18, 2023

The Glastonbury Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, with a hybrid format.

Commission Members Present: John Langmaid, Mario DiLoreto, Ellen Saunig (Zoom), Jessica Wallace (Zoom), Luther Weeks

Commission Members Absent: Corey Turner

Others Present: Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks & Recreation, Don Longtin, President of GLL, Jill Barry, Katryna Albert, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

1. Correspondence:

Included in the packets was a letter from a resident who complimented a Park Ranger for their assistance in a matter. Also included was an email from a resident complimenting the Park Ranger Program.

Minutes:

The minutes of the June 19, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Committee Reports:

- None

3. Directors Report:

- Included in the packet was a summary of summer programs, Parks Department updates, and testimonials from families about summer programs.

4. Old Business:

- **Skate park-** The Department has been getting favorable feedback since keeping the park open 7 days a week.
- **YMCA Facility Exploration-** No updates at this time.
- **Future Projects for Consideration-** Lisa will remove from the agenda going further, as potential items will be brought up during the budget discussions.
- **Proposed Fees and Charges (Change of Approval Dates) -** Lisa advised that the Commission will approve the proposed Fees and Charges more than likely in January.
- **Cotton Hollow-** Lisa summarized how back in 2020 the town purchased the mill ruins. The Engineering Department has hired a firm that will be doing a structural evaluation and general assessment of the structures and provide alternatives to consider for restoration if at all possible. Assessment will also provide an order of magnitude for costs.
- **Town Email for Commissioners-** John Langmaid explained that in a recent meeting with the Town Manager, he suggested that Commissioners may want to consider having an email address just for Commission business, separate from their personal email. John also suggested creating a Recreation Commission folder.

5. New Business:

- **Little League Project- Riverfront Field- Don Longtin, President of Little League-** Mr. Longtin apologized for not bringing the topic to the Recreation Commission in the first place. The project would include changing the lights over to LED and renaming the field to Heroes Field. The fundraising goal is \$190,000. Don explained that the light levels were measured in November of 2022 and they are not up to standard. By changing to LED, the life expectancy increases dramatically and is more environmentally friendly. Funds raised to date are \$46, 000. Don is looking into potential grant funding. John Langmaid stressed that the naming of the field would need Town Council approval. John also mentioned that it would be good to get other youth groups on board as Hartwell Soccer and Lacrosse would benefit from more lighted town fields, especially at Riverfront where the infrastructure is already in place.
- **Role of Recreation Commission-** John summarized the meeting that he and Corey had with the Town Manager discussing the role of the Recreation Commission and the Code of Ordinances. John reiterated that the Commission does not supervise the Director, but has a role in how parks and facilities are being utilized.
- **Invasives Update (Spotted Water Hemlock/ Poison Ivy) -** When invasives are being reported to the town, the town will often do educational PSAs. In regards to the Spotted Water Hemlock- the town does not remove or remediate poisonous or invasive plants on private property, however, the Town staff are happy to provide resources and contact information to ensure homeowners can access assistance and take necessary action.
- **Center Green Improvements-** Lisa advised that there are current funds in the CIP program to do repairs to the fountain, irrigation, and brick walkway. There is a Black Walnut tree that will need to be removed. There are funds also set aside for a consultant to do a master plan. Lisa has had meetings with Community Development and Engineering reiterating the Commission would like to be a part of the process. John discussed that if plans for a park change, then the Commission needs to be consulted.
- **Open Space Management Plan-** Lisa advised that there were 600 responses to the survey. The next step would be for the consultant to present their findings to the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission. The Commission requested the materials in advance of such meeting.
- **Casella Property Donation- 2451 Old Hebron Road-** The town has received this 28+/- parcel as a donation. This property is not contiguous with any other properties and is heavily wooded.
- **Budget- FY 24-25-** Lisa is expected to have more information on the budget for the next meeting.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Next scheduled meeting- October 16, 2023, at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks & Recreation

