

## MINUTES – GLASTONBURY RECREATION COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING – January 22, 2024

The Glastonbury Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024

Commission Members Present: John Langmaid, Leo Colgan, Ellen Saunig, Jessica Wallace, Luther Weeks  
Absent: Mario DiLoreto

Others Present: Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks and Recreation, Liz Gambacorta, Recreation Supervisor

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**
- **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - Lisa referred the Commission to their packets that included kudos from the public regarding Parks and Recreation Staff.
- **MINUTES OF THE December 18, 2023, REGULAR MEETING** were approved unanimously.
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - Great Pond Stewardship Committee- The Commission needs to have a representative on this committee. The Commission suggested Vice Chair, Mario DiLoreto be put on the Committee. Lisa will reach out and ask if he is willing.
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Lisa provided information on the following:
  - **Program Updates-**
    - The Holiday Letters program continues to grow. This year we received and responded to 176 Holiday Letters. Responses were written by staff and volunteers. We also held two letter-writing parties at the Senior Center where Senior Center volunteers came in to write responses.
    - A Children's performance was held on December 18, the first since before COVID. This is a free performance open to the public. Magician Matt Mathews performed at Gideon Welles for a crowd of over 200. We are looking forward to a second performance during the February break.
    - Parks & Recreation staff ran craft stations at TCI's, Lighting the Center Event. The two stations included Holiday Letters with over 60 Holiday Letters written on supplied stationery and an ornament craft. 120 ornaments were made and supplies ran out before the end of the event. We will look to expand on that next year.
    - Winners for the Digital Pet Photo Contest and House Decorating Contest have been announced, and prizes were given away. There were close to 1,300 votes cast on Facebook between the two contests.
    - Planning is underway for the Egg-a-Pool-looza, Easter Egg hunt at the GHS Pool on March 24.
    - Planning is underway for the Passport to Health Fair scheduled for 3/8/24. Vendor packets have been sent out and the first Gold Sponsor has been secured.
    - Puzzle Palooza continues to be a hit with adults. 11 teams attended the December event and 10 are registered for this week's January event.
    - The Recreation Swim Team is wrapping up the regular meet season with Championships scheduled for February 9 & 10. Glastonbury will host the older age groups. The USA Short Course season will end in March. USA Long Course begins in April.
    - We have 215 registrations for the winter swim lesson program.

- Chris Cote Gold partnership started its first youth lesson program in January with 6 kids participating.
- The Snowsports Club began on 1/18/24 with 30 registered participants. The program is being held on Thursdays at Mt. Southington.
- Gymnastics lessons and team have begun with lessons carrying significant waiting lists.
- Winter Fitness classes meet minimum numbers with only one class being cancelled due to low enrollment. Three brand new classes are running this session.
- The Summer Employment Packet has been posted and we are accepting applications for lifeguards, camp staff, parks positions, tennis, and more. Staff are working on a marketing campaign to promote openings.
- Renewal contracts with L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools and Slipaway River Cruise are being finalized. Both are popular programs giving access to the CT River.
- Summer brochure is scheduled to go the printer mi-February with registration on March 12th at 8:00 a.m. online and by mail.
- **Ice Skating** - There was sufficient ice to open Riverfront for skating, but not Eastbury or JB Williams. Staff measures daily.
- **Sledding** - The Town does not have any sanctioned sledding areas due to liability reasons.
- **Illegal Dumping** - Continues to be a problem at Parks and Open Space Areas. The Commission will assist in a campaign educating the public on the cost of this behavior. Besides theft of service, it puts an unnecessary burden on staff to remediate.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Little League Project- Riverfront Field**- Little League continues to fundraise. The next step is for Little League to get Town Council approval.
- **Budget- FY 24-25**- Lisa gave an overview of budget proposals for the Capital Improvement Program that was presented at the workshop on January 17th.
- **Center Green Improvements** – Lisa advised that she and Dan Pennington went to the ASDRC to present the conceptual plans that the Recreation Commission reviewed and supported. ASDRC gave some suggestions regarding the plans.
- **Open Space Management Plan** – Lisa is still waiting for the draft plans, once she receives it, she will share it with the Commission.
- **Cotton Hollow Mill Ruins** – John Langmaid discussed whether or not the ruins will be incorporated into Cotton Hollow Preserve, which then, as the ordinance states should be left in a natural and undisturbed state. Lisa presented the report from Structures North. The report estimates almost \$900,000 to stabilize the structure. This does not include costs associated with design and permitting.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **1361 Main Street (Audubon Building) Proposed Uses**- Lisa passed out ID3A's preliminary feasibility study. Lisa is looking for the Commission's recommendations for use. She will have on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss.
- **Proposed Fees and Charges**- Liz Gambacorta, Recreation Supervisor gave a summary of the proposed Fees and Charges for both the General Fund and Recreation Activity Fund. A motion was made by Luther Weeks, seconded by Jessica Wallace to approve the Fees and Charges for the General Fund. A motion by Ellen Saunig, seconded by Luther Weeks was made to approve the Recreation Activity Fund Fees and charges- both passed unanimously.
- **Riverfront Community Center Pavilion Update**- Lisa advised the Commission that she and Dan Pennington, Town Engineer, presented the proposed pavilion to both the ASDRC Commission and the Plans Review Subcommittee. She and Dan will be attending the Plan and Zoning Commission on January 30th, 2024.
- **Forestry Inventory- Request for Proposals**- Lisa gave an overview of the project and the town is looking for a member of the Recreation Commission to serve on the Panel. John Langmaid said he would be interested if no one else was, and will serve on the committee if his schedule allows. Luther Weeks also

showed some interest in serving. Lisa will send the information once the dates have been confirmed.

- **ADJOURNMENT**- Motion made by Luther Weeks, seconded by Ellen Saunig- ADJOURNED at 7:05 p.m.

**Next scheduled meeting** – February 26, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. Zerio', written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks & Recreation

