

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES – GLASTONBURY RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING – September 16, 2024

The Glastonbury Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024

Commission Members Present: John Langmaid, Leo Colgan, Ellen Saunig, Luther Weeks

Absent: Mario DiLoreto, Jessica Wallace

Others Present: Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks and Recreation, Geordie Emmanuel, Program Coordinator, Mark McCall, Mitch Inserno, Dan Silva, Matthew Norman

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

- **ROLL CALL**
- **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - **Glastonbury Junior Guardians Baseball-** Mitch Insero and Dan Silva requested field use and offered to pay \$3,000, acknowledging this amount is significantly below the Town's approved rental rates. The Commission explained that the Fees and Charges are established during the budget process and approved by both the Recreation Commission and the Town Council.
- **MINUTES OF THE June 17, 2024, REGULAR MEETING**
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - **None**
- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - **Program Updates**
 - **Camp Discovery-** Significant waitlists for the K-2 group, averaging 26 children, and smaller waitlists for grades 4-6, averaging 18 children. There are no plans to expand, as the program is already at capacity for the available space.
 - **Adventure Week** – A large waitlist of 50 participants. Expansion is not possible due to space limitations at the Academy Building, where the program is held after schools close, and staffing challenges later in the summer.
 - **Playground Camp** – Two sites had longer waitlists, while the third site had openings until late May. No plans to expand as there was adequate room at the sites.
 - **Junior Programs** – Small waitlists of 4-12 children. There is potential to accommodate a few additional children at each site next year, depending on staffing levels.
 - **Camp Sunrise-** The special needs camp reached capacity with waitlists. No plans to expand due to staffing, volunteer needs, and transportation constraints. The program operates effectively at its current size.
 - **Awesome Adventures-** There were large waitlists going into May, and most teens on the waiting list could not be accommodated, resulting in some not being able to attend even a single session.
 - **Summer Enrichment and Sports Camps-** Long waitlists of 30-45 participants per session due to limited school space. Expansion is not possible due to space restrictions.

- **Music and Arts Camp-** Enrollment increased by 35 campers compared to 2023. Plans are in place to expand class offerings in 2025 to meet growing demand.

- **Deep Grant-** The Town received a grant for \$325,000. Funding will provide ongoing improvements towards repairs to the pool, bathhouse, and the upper restroom facility. The main pool and wading pool need the replacement of skimmers, tiles, and coping. The electrical panel for the filter room needs to be replaced. The wading pool needs to be re-plastered. The bathhouse needs painting, clapboard replacement, and bathroom upgrades (fixtures). The upper restroom facility needs painting, a roof replacement, and automatic door locks.
- **Park Ranger Program-** The Recreation Commission requested an update on the roles and responsibilities of the Park Rangers:

Training Requirements

De-escalation/Sensitivity Training
CPR/First Aid/Narcan Training
Bike Safety
Radio Training
Ordinance Review

Patrol Areas- Most Frequented

Academy/ Town Hall

Addison Bog Walk- Litter/Illegal Dumping (Regular Occurrence)

Addison Park- Litter/Illegal Dumping, Illegal Parking, Playground Safety, Restroom Concerns

Arbor Acres- Illegal Dumping/ Fires

Buckingham Park- Playground Safety

Cotton Hollow Preserve- Parking Lot, Litter, Ordinance Violations

Earl Park- Trail Safety/ Illegal Fire on Bridge

Eastbury Pond- Illegal Dumping, Illegal Fires (grilling), Swimming When Closed for Bacteria

Ferry Landing- Litter, Alcohol containers, and nip bottles

Glastonbury High School- Excessive Litter in Parking Lots, Bleachers, Fence Lines

Greyledge Farm Open Space- Illegal Dumping

House Street Bike Path- Illegal Dumping (Regular Occurrence)

Hubbard Green- Litter/ Illegal Dumping

J.B. Williams- Litter, Playground Safety, Pavilion Check

Longo Open Space- Illegal Dumping

Matson Hill Open Space- Illegal Dumping

Riverfront Park- Including Boathouse, RCC, Dog Park, and Paths- Litter/ Illegal Dumping, Playground Safety, Parking, Ordinance Violations

Rotary Field- Excessive Litter/ Alcohol Containers

Welles Park- Illegal Dumping, Excessive Litter

Duties/Responsibilities

Customer Service to Park Patrons

Litter- Everyday Duty- Rangers patrol with trash pickers and buckets/ bags.

*This is the first year we have received little to no complaints regarding trash in our parks and open spaces.

Document/ Report Vandalism

Document/Report Illegal Dumping (Theft of Service)

Document/ Report Illegal Camp Fires

Document/ Report Broken Playground Equipment/ Issues With Restrooms (Riverfront/Addison)

Document/ Report Safety Hazards (Downed Trees/Branches, Bee/ Wasp Nests,

Document/ Report Portable Toilet Issues- Need of Servicing/ Pushed Over

Document/ Report Parking Violations in Town Parking Lots- Illegal Parking in Fire Lanes

Document/ Report Field Use Without Permits

Assist With Special Events & Activities- Set-Up/ Clean-Up, Traffic Assistance (Summer Concert Series, Summer Camp Events, Graduation, Library Books Sale, Plant Sale, Weddings and Parking, Apple Festival, MLK Event)

- **Dog Park Update** – Lisa informed the Commission that the Park Crew sprays twice a year as part of their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The area was mulched on March 8, 2023. Staff is coordinating with the Highway Department to deliver additional mulch and is exploring the possibility of involving a volunteer group to assist with spreading it.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Little League Project- Update**- The lighting project is complete, and the bases for the monuments have been installed. Little League is waiting for the arrival of the three monuments (Military, Fire, and Police).
- **Open Space Management Plan- Update**- The Town has contracted Mosaic Eco-Solutions to conduct a comprehensive inventory of forests and open spaces. This project will inform the development of a forest management plan to guide future decisions on protecting, sustaining, and utilizing forest resources. The project is supported by a \$30,000 grant from DEEP. Additionally, the Town has launched a community survey to gather input on the use and priorities for town-owned lands and forests, with responses accepted through the end of September 2024.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Cotton Hollow Preserve Proposed Ordinances**- The Commission reviewed the proposed ordinances. A motion was made by Luther Weeks, seconded by Ellen Saunig, to prohibit swimming and to include verbiage restricting climbing on fences, buildings, walls, and ruins. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission also discussed strategies to prevent misuse of the Preserve, such as closing the Preserve on hot weather days and ensuring accurate information is shared on social media platforms promoting the area. Chairman Langmaid will draft a letter for the Recreation Commission's review, to be presented at the Public Hearing on September 24th at 8:00 p.m.
- **Addison Bog- Bike Trail Update**- Mark McCall updated the Recreation Commission on the work completed so far. The next steps include creating a trail map, naming the trails, installing a kiosk, blazing the trails, and adding gravel and soil for drainage. Lisa will collaborate with Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Norman on the kiosk project. For the drainage project, Lisa will schedule a walk-through with staff from Engineering, Community Development, and Parks and Recreation to assess the needs and determine the next steps in the approval process.
- **Adult Softball Proposal**- Geordie Emmanuel, Program Coordinator explained how the Department will be transitioning the Adult Softball League to USSSA Softball, which will be overseen by Jon Brandt beginning in the 2025 season. The Department's role in this transition will be on a field rental basis. Responsibilities will include lining/grooming the fields, collecting rental income, and communicating with Jon regarding any issues that arise during the season. Jon will be overseeing the day-to-day operations of the league including registrations, umpire payments, roster collection/management, and setting the bylaws, among other responsibilities.

- **ADJOURNMENT**- ADJOURNED at 7:40 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting – October 21, 2024 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks & Recreation

