



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes - Final

12 Van Tassel Drive
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Kenneth DiRico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

7:00 PM

Parks & Recreation/Senior Citizens
Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DiRico called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Commissioner Jessica Cobb
Commissioner Thomas Olsen
Commissioner Loretta Kent
Chair Kenneth J. DiRico
Commissioner Meredith Robinson
Excused Commissioner Lucrezia Finegan
Commissioner Shaileen C. English

In addition, the following people were also present:
Director Scott Johnson
Gary Paul, Town Council Liaison
Justin and Xavier DeBrodt, Boy Scout Troop 16

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

V. REPORTS

1. Directors Report September 2022

*PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Director's Report September 2022*

Please note this update for your review.

1. Commission Meeting:

The regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Ledyard Senior Center. Please contact the office immediately if you will not be able to attend.

2. Fields:

All fields have been overseeded, dethatched, and fertilized. With the recent rain we are seeing the fields bounce back nicely from the drought we have been in.

3. Erickson Park:

The walking path has been sprayed with weed killer, next step is to till and possibly bring in stone dust to top off the path. The recent rain washed out the boat launch. Russell recommended talking to Joe at PW to see if he might be able to create a swale that would direct the water runoff to the side of the boat launch preventing a loss of material.

4. Christy Hill:

The parking lot lights have been installed. Everything is installed and we are just waiting for Eversource to make the connection.

5. Irrigation Issues:

With the recent drought we have identified 2 irrigation issues.

- Judge Crandall: Irrigation heads are too low. Water is hitting the grass blades and water is not covering the intended area. This is evident by little green circles surrounded by grass that went dormant during the drought. Working on getting the irrigation company out to look and give an estimate.
- Depta Field: We have noticed 2 corners of the field are not getting enough water when there is a slight wind. Mike just spread the remainder of the topsoil and those heads are scheduled to be raised and replaced. To resolve this issue, we will extend those 2 zones adding another head to each corner that would spray back into the field. This will create an overlap ensuring those corners are watered.

6. New Preschool Playscape:

The new playscape for the Donahue property is currently at a freight company in Plainfield. Currently coordinating the offloading and installation of the equipment. Installation could start as early as next week! Following the equipment installation, the safety surfacing will be installed.

7. Playscapes:

We have started a massive playground overhaul. I have started performing audits on our playscapes to identify everything needed to bring our playscapes into compliance.

- I have started marking out the use proper use zones.
- With the use zones marked out Russel can then put the playground borders in the correct location. In addition, he is replacing rotten sections with new lumber.
- The next step after the borders are corrected is to bring in new

wood fiber. Currently getting quotes with hopes of starting to get material to the playscapes as early as next week.

8. Aljen Playscape Vandalism:

We had some vandalism at the Aljen playscape. It appears someone tried to cut a section of the slide out with an electric saw. Working on pricing for a replacement slide so the police report can be filed and an insurance claim submitted. Unfortunately, it is one of the older playscapes and the slide ID tag is no longer there. Pictures have been sent to the playground rep who is trying to identify the slide so we can get an estimate for a replacement.

9. Gales Ferry Community Center Ramp:

The ramp behind the community center is in bad shape. Russell is going to screw some of the decking back down, so it is usable. However, this is only a temporary fix, and it should be replaced. Possible CIP project for FY23-24.

10. Parks & Rec Truck:

Still waiting on pricing under the state contract. Have been told we should have pricing October 18th. Purchasing a truck outside the state contract will cost us an additional \$20-30,000.

11. Ledyard Transition Academy:

Meet with the Ledyard Transition Academy regarding possible work. We discussed park maintenance and more specifically spreading of the playground wood chips. This is not only a great opportunity for the kids but also a tremendous help to the department.

Motion to accept the September 2022 Directors Report.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Loretta Kent

SECONDER: Thomas Olsen

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2022

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Cobb

SECONDER: Thomas Olsen

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Boy Scout Skate Park Project Proposal

Xavier DeBrodt from Boy Scout Troop 16, presented a proposal for a skate park to be located at Highland's Lake. The commission had some questions regarding the insurance and maintenance.

RESULT: CONTINUE

2. Little League Infield Projects at Aljen Heights and Christy Hill

Discussion:

Park and Recreation can handle the maintenance of one field within the current budget and adding a second field can incur additional funds. The commission is moving forward with the Christy Hill infield project as the Aljen Heights project requires additional upgrades prior to the instillation of a new infield. The Aljen Heights project will be reviewed at a later date.

Motion to approve the instillation of infield at Christy Hill location.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Thomas Olsen

SECONDER: Loretta Kent

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

3. Proposal to return the dual-use baseball/softball field at Blonders Park back into a baseball only field.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Thomas Olsen

SECONDER: Meredith Robinson

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

4. Boy Scout Bat House Project Proposal

Boy Scout turned 18 and is unable to peruse the project.

Motion to remove item from agenda.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Thomas Olsen

SECONDER: Loretta Kent

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Discussion and possible action regarding possible Boy Scout donated bench.**

Discussion to move new bench to Donahue park with the addition of the new playground.
Motion to place second donated Boy Scout bench at Donahue park.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Thomas Olsen

SECONDER: Meredith Robinson

AYE 5 Cobb Olsen Kent DiRico Robinson

EXCUSED 2 Finegan English

Any New Business proper to come before the Committee

Discussed holding the next meeting at Christy Hill depending if the lights are functional.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kent moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Olsen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0 Approved and so declared

Respectively Submitted,

Chairman DiRico
Parks & Recreation Commission

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.