



WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, February 02, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call to Order

Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, Vice Chairman
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary
Margaret Germain
Alan Mickel

ABSENT: Christopher Martin, vacancy

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Parks & Recreation Director

III. Election of Officers

Lisa Carew entertained a motion for Chairman.

A. Chairman

Ken LaRosa I would like to nominate William Donston as Chairman.
Margaret Germain seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are closed.

Lisa Carew All those in favor of nominating William Donston as Chairman.

Aye: 4 LaRosa, Rinaldi, Germain, Mickel

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Donston

Motion passes

William Donston is declared Chairman. Chairman William Donston took over meeting.

B. Vice-Chairman

Pat Rinaldi I would like to nominate Ken LaRosa as Vice Chairman.
Margaret Germain seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are closed.

William Donston All those in favor of nominating Ken LaRosa as Vice
Chairman.

Aye: 4 Donston, Rinaldi, Germain, Mickel

Nay: 0

Abstain:1 LaRosa

Motion passes

Ken LaRosa is declared Vice Chairman.

C. Secretary

Ken LaRosa I would like to nominate Pat Rinaldi as Secretary
Margaret Germain seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are closed

William Donston All those in favor of nominating Pat Rinaldi as Secretary.

Aye: 4 Donston, Germain, LaRosa, Mickel

Nay: 0

Abstain: Rinaldi

Motion approved

Pat Rinaldi is declared Secretary.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Thursday, December 01, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Peg Germain to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for December 01, 2022.

Motion Approved

B. Thursday, January 05, 2023 Meeting Cancelled due to lack of quorum

VI. Correspondence

- Appointment letter for Bill Donston and Chris Martin
- Road permits for the following:
Shamrock Shuffle Road Race, Memorial Day, Night Out on Main Street Block Parties and Santa Parade.
- New Opportunities – “Meals on Wheels” and disabled and elderly meal program statistics
- Public Participation protocols
- Code of Ordinances – from Town Council regarding Noise Ordinances. William Donston commented on OSHA rated decibels applies over a range of eight hours.

VII. Reports

A. Chairman

William Donston reported:

- Privately owned Jericho Road resident who has been filling in town property to increase his property size. The Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission gave the resident five years to fix the problem. Moosa Raffey, the Inlands Wetlands officer told Lisa Carew it is being handled by the Town Attorney.

Lisa Carew will request a copy of the letter sent to the resident for the Parks & Recreation Commissioners.

- Follow-up Cherry Hill Demolition putting their dumpsters further and further on the area that is supposed to be their portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway.

William Donston stated there aren't property line markers. The town still holds a \$29,000 bond for Cherry Hill.

Cherry Hill was supposed to build a portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway, adjoining the existing portion to the state built next to the North-East Transportation Bus Depot at the old drive-in site on Frost Bridge Road.

- The Dog Park is being heavily used. We had some users put tires around one of the non-active (for fun only) fire hydrants.

Lisa Carew had asked the Parks Maintenance Department to keep tabs on park. There are ordinances in place regarding the use of parks and "dumping".

- The annual field meeting was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023. This annual meeting is held for all those groups and organization using the town jurisdiction fields. There is only one group that isn't paid up to date from the Fall playing season.

- There is a big concern over the BOE possibly eliminating the softball and baseball diamonds at Swift. This will drastically impact all the "feeder" programs for the high school

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain to add in VII c subcommittee reports.

Motion Approved

MOTION: William Donston seconded by Margaret Germain to add New Business IX C. to the agenda Naugatuck River Greenway letter of support.

Motion Approved

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain to add IX D Consideration of additional rental of golf carts for the peak season from Memorial weekend to Labor Day Weekend.

Motion Approved

B. Director of Human, Social & Leisure Services

Lisa Carew reported:

1. My error, please add to the regular meeting item VII Item C. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Crestbrook Park GC

B. Fields

C. Plaques, Memorials, etc.

2. Regular Meeting - Under New Business, please add IX Item C – Support of the Naugatuck River Greenway

Crestbrook Park: The walkway from the parking lot overlooking the pool & tennis courts was completed, it will be tweaked come spring when the area will be compressed and the hill will have grass and plantings

Our Golf Pro's contract is almost finalized, waiting for the Town Manager to return to review. Hopefully next week it will be all set.

Consideration for additional golf carts to rent during peak time, from Memorial Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.

Parks and Greenways Division:

Request from the DPW to have a Letter of Support for the Naugatuck River Greenway.

Recreation Division: The Assistant Director and Recreation Supervisor have been busy organizing Summer programs and Special Events. Including concert series, Block Parties & movies.

Social Services Division: Our Social Services Clerk hours increased from approx. 29 to 35. This has been in the budget since June 1, 2022. Division has been busy since Christmas with energy assistance requests.

Senior Services: January is typically slower at the FASC due to cold and bad weather. January this year is the big kick-off for the new **myseniorcenter.com** program. Laura Garay, the Coordinator scaled back the usual number of activities to allow time for people to get used to the new program.

Lisa Carew read Assistant Director Carrie Godfrey's January report:

Lots of great winter programs started: Spanish Lessons, Karate, Gentle Yoga, Hip Hop Dance, Music & Movement Class, New Year Celebration, Ball Till You Fall, Country Line Dancing and many more all sponsored by the Watertown Parks & Recreation Department. Registrations seem to be picking up and people are excited to get their children involved.

We sponsored a Winter Coloring Contest. Kids ranging from Pre-K through 5th grade entered this contest. Winners from each category were given prizes: Carvel coupons and a bag of goodies!

Winter Coloring Craft Kits are available for pick up. Registered participants will receive everything they need to do these fun activities at home! They can pick up the kits at the Parks & Recreation office.

WRST and Star Fish Swim Club have been in the pool. The coaches and swimmers are very excited!

Youth Basketball (Intown & Travel) are going very well. I've witnessed some close games and it's great to see how much the kids have learned. Big thank you to our volunteer coaches.

January 18th, we had our first Shamrock Shuffle meeting. Registrations are being taken, and we haven't decided where the money should go. Happy 10th Anniversary to us - you can now register for the Shamrock Shuffle.

The Spring/Summer field use meeting with the sport group representatives was held on Saturday, January 28th.

C. Sub-committee reports.

1. Golf Course

Ken LaRosa reported: There is a tree down on the 2nd fairway. Ken LaRosa said he spoke to Ray Marks, CBP Foreman.

The Maintenance Department is approximately halfway through the winter prep for spring.

Marty Brynes is conducting a winter "indoor golf" with a simulator league.

Al Mickel had a request to get a tour of the course this spring.

2. Field Sub-committee - annual meeting was held Saturday, January 28, 2023 at the Parks & Recreation Department. All groups using town fields were represented, the BOE, and St. Mary Magdalen's and St. John's Schools were also present.

3. Plaques, Memorials, Sub-committee – has been discontinued. A memo will be submitted to the Town Manager's office that the minutes will be held in suspense or at which time the Sub-Committee is reinstated.

VIII. Old Business

A. Proposed Community/Senior Center

No report at this time.

IX. New Business

A. Sunset Grille Car Show request

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Pat Rinaldi to accept the request from the Sunset Grill for their second annual car show for the date of Sunday, August 13 but the rain date was not accepted there is already a large youth golf tournament on Sunday, August 20th. It was suggested that Sunday, August 27th is currently open.

Motion Approved

B. Review of submitted Applications for 2023

1. Lions Club Golf Tournament request.

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Pat Rinaldi to approve.

Motion Approved

2. Crestbrook Park Men's Golf Association request for 2023 season.

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Peg Germain to approve highlighted dates are holiday weekends and members of the association will need to secure starting times as they have done this past golf season.

Motion Approved

C. Naugatuck River Greenway letter of support

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickel William rd the letter of support.

Motion approved

D. Consideration of additional rental of golf carts for the peak season from memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickel for the town to consider securing an additional eight golf carts for the peak season, from Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend. The carts are \$225.00 each per month. Each cart would have to be used seven times a month to pay for the rental. The rental carts are used with a roof. Basic carts a separate rental agreement.

William Donston stated this will help elevate the wait period for farts to come back into use.

Motion Approved

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk