



MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 4, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Watertown Town Hall – Recreation Department
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Ct.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, V. Chairman
Joseph McGrail
Al Mickel

ABSENT: Margaret Germain
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary
Karim Belica

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Human, Social & Leisure Services Director

III. Public Participation:

None

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. April 6, 2023, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Alan Mickel to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for April 6, 2023.

Page 1 – public comment “made by not seconded.

Aye: 3 Donston, LaRosa, Mickel
Nay: 0
Abstain: 1 McGrail

Motion passed

V. Correspondence:

- Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation Grant appropriation for trophy display.
- Correspondence letter
 - re: Assistant Senior Center Coordinator
 - re: Town Social Worker
- Joe Romano – Alex Alves award from Rotary Club
- Parks Maintenance Report
- Founders Row
- The Jack Staver Perpetual Endowment Fund

MOTION: William Donston seconded by Joseph McGrail to add under New Business – Item C – New entrance to Watertown/Oakville Park on Buckingham St & Echo Lake Road.

Motion approved

MOTION: William Donston seconded by Joseph McGrail to add under New Business – Item D - Faded signs at Crestbrook.

Motion approved

MOTION: William Donston seconded by Joseph McGrail to add under New Business – Item E - Signage and Fire Lane at CBP.

Motion approved

MOTION: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to add under New Business – Item F – Jumpin’ Jack’s playground at VMP.

Motion approved

VI. Reports:

A. Chairman

Chairman William Donston reported:

- The passing of longtime past member of Town Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, Jan O. Wivestad. Bill will send the condolences to the family on behalf of the commission.
- Memorial Day Parade
- Welcomed Joe McGrail to the board.
- Appointed Joe McGrail to the Golf Course Sub-committee.

B. Director of Human, Social & Leisure Services

Lisa Carew read the Assistant Director's report: Monthly Follow Up-April 2023

Submitted by: Carrie Godfrey

-A few new classes started: Kids Rise Up Yoga, Ball till You Fall, Boating Course, Gentle Yoga, Ready Set Play, Middle School Running Club and Kids Can Cook. They all had great attendance.

-We held our 3rd annual Egg My House event Saturday, April 1st. We sold out within a week. They really seem to enjoy this event!

-We held our annual Easter Bunny event Saturday, April 8th. We had made and take crafts, creative play, families were invited to bring their own hard-boiled eggs for painting and a parade with the Easter bunny. Attendance was really good, the kids really seemed to enjoy themselves! I had many complements from parents on how wonderful it was! 😊

-Spring Swim Lessons started. We just about filled Parent & Child and filled Preschool Aquatic Classes. Swim Lessons Levels 1-6 had good enrollment as well. I received many compliments on how great the instructors were with the kids.

-The Summer 2023 Activities Guide is posted on our website and available for pick up at the Parks & Recreation office. Flyers are made for upcoming activities and will be sent through the schools. We have lots of exciting events planned for this summer – Swim Lessons, All Day and Half Day camps, a variety of new bus trips, Yankee vs Red Sox game, A Night Out on Main Street Block Parties, Town-Wide Tag Sale, Fall Festival and Harvest Cruse Show.

C. Sub-Committees

Ken LaRosa reported:

- Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum
- Course is wet! Lots of rain

- Ray and the crew have been busy working on bunkers.
- Marty had a golf demo at the Pro Shop.
- Lights on the golf course, LED solar lights.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Proposed Community/Senior Center – William Donston felt the project was years off in the future.

IX. New Business:

- A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2023. – none.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Jack Staver Account - a subcommittee will be established to determine policies and future priorities.
- C. New entrance to Watertown/Oakville Park on Buckingham St & Echo Lake Road. – proposed to consider naming (with Town Council approval) for the 100th anniversary of Watertown foundation.

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to fully support the proposed Buckingham and Echo Lake Road Park.

Motion passed

- D. Faded signs at Crestbrook

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to replace or reface signage at CBP. Including the Crime Stoppers signs and directional/information.

Motion passed

- E. Signage and Fire Lanes at CBP

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to pursue conversation with the Town Fire Marshal.

Motion passed

- F. Jumpin' Jack's Playground at VMP – Commissioner McGrail had concerns and is very sensitive to exclude. Wants inclusion, Joe had approached the Town Manager about combining the playground to include, not exclude.

It was explained that there are two playground areas on the master plan for Veterans' Memorial Park – it was meant to provide recreational opportunities for children at Fields #2, 3, & 4 so they didn't have to cross the street to get to the Sandy Hook playscape.

William Donston will attend the Town Managers meeting on May 17th to discuss.

X. Adjournment:

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk