

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Joe McKernan, Larry Theadore & Joe Ciriello
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

At this time, Mr. Ward invited Mr. Pete Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities for the Stonington School Department, to take part in the discussion of agenda item **IV. Recreation Administrator's Report d. Animals/Dogs in Spellman Park**. (See below: agenda item **IV. Recreation Administrator's Report d. Animals/Dogs in Spellman Park**).

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from September Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the September 23, 2019 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

b. Special Activity -21100

According to Mr. Ward, Recreation is upside down again, which is always the case due to how the fiscal year runs. The net revenue over expenditures in the Special Activity 21100 account is negative \$57,799.52, however, this is better than this time last year. Mr. Ward noted that they are down a bit in the soccer program but the flag football program is doing great.

Mr. Ward is working on line item transfers in the General Fund 10173 account but overall it looks good.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Fall Program Report

Mr. Ward reported that they are getting ready for the indoor flag program and they are starting outdoor flag playoffs. The COMO/REC basketball League is also starting up. Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commissioners with a copy of the current backpack flyer.

b. EEE Mosquito Update

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the curfew has been lifted. The softball playoffs will finally be wrapping up. Mr. Ward will start up again with plans for the footbridge that was put on hold during the curfew.

c. Golf Classic Update

Director Theodore gave a brief update on the Golf Classic. There were 82 golfers that participated in the event. The total revenue generated was \$24,345 with an expense of \$12,488 for a net profit of \$11,857 that went straight to the Department of Human Services to fund things such as scholarships for Summer Camp, energy assistance programs and even winter boots for residents in need. Commissioner McKernan commented that he participated in this event and had a lot of fun. The tournament is well run and it is a beautiful course. Mr. Ward stated that he will work on providing the Recreation Commissioners with the details for this event prior to summer break. The event is scheduled to be run the first Monday of October. October 5, 2020 is next year's date.

d. Animals/Dogs in Spellman Park

Pete Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities, Stonington School Department

Mr. Ward updated the Recreation Commission in regard to three separate incidents with dogs in parks. A child was bitten by a leashed dog at Spellman Park, there was a dog on dog incident and also an incident at Pawcatuck Middle School where dogs continued to bark at one another throughout an entire game. A meeting was held between First Selectman Simmons, Recreation, Chief Stewart and the School Department to try to solve this issue. Once a policy is put in place the police will be able to enforce it. According to Mr. Ward, any ordinance has to go to the Town for a vote. Mr. Ward wrote up a policy that he would like established:

Town Parks & School Grounds – Leash Rules/Regulations. *For the health and safety of all involved:* Animals must be on a short leash or lead (maximum of seven feet in length) while in any Town owned park (Haley's Way, Town Dock & Spellman Park). While in Spellman Park leashed dogs are only allowed in the parking areas, the East & West Pavillion areas, and on the nature trails and road ways in Spellman Park.

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Exceptions to this are "Service" – "Guide" and/or "Assistance" dogs as defined by law or dogs owned or controlled by government, law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments

or persons authorized by agencies or departments to engage in search & rescue activity or training.

Dogs may be at large on Town or School District property only in areas designated as "Off-Leash" fenced areas. Rules of any such area will apply.

There was some discussion in regard to the State law. Adopting the above policy is for safety and sanitary reasons. Mr. Ward is looking for approval of this policy from the Recreation Commission. If approved, it will go to the Board of Selectmen and the School Department.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Anderson his thoughts. Mr. Anderson replied that there are signs posted, however, there are no teeth behind them. The signs are not enforceable without a policy. Mr. Anderson read a sample policy to the Recreation Commission. This policy states that violators are committing an act of trespass. The Recreation Commissioners are all in agreement with adopting the policy Mr. Ward presented, however, there was interest in adding the trespass narrative to the policy to which Mr. Ward stated he will make the addition.

Commissioner Ciriello made a motion to accept the Town Parks & School Grounds – Leash Rules/Regulations as written with the addendum of the trespass violation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Moore, who was not in attendance, had previously expressed to Mr. Ward his approval of this policy.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commissioners that the Boathouse project will start moving forward. They received permission to move the house and the new design has been approved.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

a. Tennis Courts

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they attempted to get the bid waiver for the repair work on the tennis courts, however, what was submitted did not meet the requirements. Mr. Ward is working on this but he thinks the project will have to wait until spring. The Board of Finance needs more detail from the vendor before the bid waiver is approved. Mr. Ward commented that if the repairs are not done in the spring, at least one of the courts will not be usable. Chairman Crowley is not happy that this project will now have to wait until spring. Director Theodore noted that there was no warning that the bid waiver process had changed.

According to Director Theodore, they will be putting the replacement of the tennis courts in for CIP. It will cost approximately \$100,000 per court and there are six courts. This will also cover the fencing, lighting and the post-tension concrete surface which comes with a twenty-year crack free guarantee. They will be asking that the School Department splits the cost. They are looking to replace the courts in two years. Mr. Ward is hoping that the patch work done this spring will hold up for two more years and that the CIP will be approved in that time. Director Theodore commented that Recreation has been using program money to maintain the courts and will show this to the Board of Finance when presenting this for CIP.

b. Outdoor Lights for Basketball Courts

According to Mr. Ward, the lights have been ordered and will be delivered end of November, beginning of December. They will also be putting in a timer on the court lights.

c. Borough Playground Unit

Mr. Ward got the cost breakdown and will resubmit to the Board of Finance for a bid waiver. This project will probably be pushed to the spring.

d. "Off-Leash" Dog Park

Mr. Ward will present this next month. He is still looking into the cost. He is also looking into fundraising and getting sponsors for this project. The site is still to be determined.

Commissioner Ciriello asked if the windscreens at the tennis courts had been taken down yet. Mr. Ward stated that he took some of them down but there are two still up. Director Theodore will follow up.

VII. Old Business

a. Pawcatuck Middle School Update

According to Mr. Ward, Recreation will be able to use the Pawcatuck Middle School starting January 1st up until 10pm. They will be waiving the usage fees for the remainder of this fiscal year. Mr. Ward will make room in the budget for these fees for the next fiscal year. Mr. Ward noted that the fees are to be determined.

VIII. New Business

Approval of the Recreation Commission 2020 Regular Meeting Dates.

Commissioner Ciriello made a motion to accept the Recreation Commission 2020 Regular Meeting Dates as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 7:00 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ciriello, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next meeting: November 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman

From: Moore, Jeffrey <jeffrey.moore@stoningtonschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Richard Ward <rward@stonington-ct.gov>
Subject: Re: Rec tonight

Hi Rich,
I vote to approve the dog policy as written.

well done!
Jeff

On Mon, Oct 28, 2019 at 3:15 PM Richard Ward <rward@stonington-ct.gov> wrote:

Hello again,

This is what I'm presenting as a Policy that will come from us, the school and the board of selectman. Apparently this is the way to go as opposed to an ordinance (which has to go to a town vote). I'd like to have your proxy vote (either way) for the record.

Feel free to call my cell with any questions 860-460-9850

Town Parks & School Grounds - Leash Rules/Regulations

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Per order of:

Town of Stonington – Board of Selectmen

Stonington Public Schools – Board of Education

Stonington Human Services – Recreation Division

-Rich Ward

Stonington Recreation

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Ward <rward@stonington-ct.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 2:40 PM

To: Moore, Jeffrey <jeffrey.moore@stoningtonschools.org>

Subject: Re: Rec tonight

Good luck Jeff! I'm going to forward a paragraph regarding to dog policy- I'd like to get your proxy for the record. I'll email it to you when I get back to the office

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 28, 2019, at 2:20 PM, Moore, Jeffrey <jeffrey.moore@stoningtonschools.org> wrote:

>

> Hi Rich,

> I won't be able to make it tonight to the rec meeting. I just had a game pushed from this afternoon to 7PM on the turf tonight.

>

> Sorry!

> Jeff

>

> --

> Jeffrey Moore

> Special Education Teacher

> Stonington High School

> (860) 599-5781 EXT 3405

>

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Jeffrey Moore
Special Education Teacher
Stonington High School
(860) 599-5781 EXT 3405



Town of Stonington
Department of Human Services
Recreation Division

166 South Broad Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Phone: (860) 535-5015
Fax: (860) 599-8290
www.stonington-ct.gov

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