



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission

April 19, 2017

Comstock Community Center

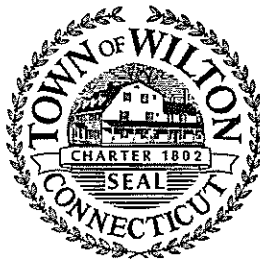
7:30 PM

Present: Commissioners Pam Brown, Peter Connolly, Jennifer Kendra, Joe Burke, Parks and Recreation Director, Steve Pierce.

Absent: BOS Representative, Dave Clune.

- I. Call to order: 7:33pm
- II. Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2017 meeting
 - Approved March Minutes with one modification. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Burke; seconded by Commissioner Kendra. Pass 4-0-0.
- III. Staff/Sub-Committee Reports
 - Parks & Grounds Report
 - Mowing started
 - New tennis bleachers have been installed
 - Parking area cleaned up with new stone
 - All field are groomed and open
 - Miller-Driscoll fields are back open for Little League as construction project is postponed to summer
 - Met with orgs about Spring use
 - Getting Merwin ready for May
 - Lax tournament – Allens to stadium, 51 teams coming from out of town
 - Saturday night ready for HS Lax and youth night
 - Recreation Report
 - Taking registration for spring and summer programs
 - Registrations are coming in

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2017 APR 27 A 8:37
BY: A. Fiteri



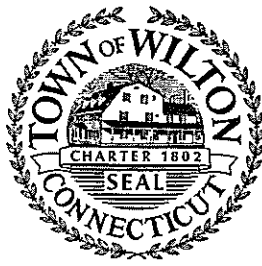
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- 100K of operating costs moved on P&L to self-sustaining side
 - Spring programs begin next week
 - Merwin playground concerns about splinters on corners of play structure being addressed
 - Field Usage and Field Location Sub Committees Report
 - Motioned by Commission Kendra to move discussion to 8:30 on the agenda in alignment with the public agenda posted for this evening. Seconded by Commissioner Burke. Passed 4-0-0.
 - Tennis Court Resurfacing Project
 - Court 7&8 started today, coordinating section by section
 - Request for "pickle ball" lines – smaller court game and good for youth tennis (\$400 per court – starting with 2 to measure usage)
 - Tennis Court budget reduced from \$750K to \$450K engineering, fencing, nets, post-tension concrete based and new surface overtop. 20-year warrantee. Maintenance – paint surface once every ten years.
 - Community Garden program/policies
 - Community Gardens being prepped, monitored and assigned based on availability.
- IV. Correspondence
- None received
- V. New Business
- Ambler Farm fields usage and parking issues
 - Pete Connolly met with Lynne Vanderslice to discuss options to resolve overflow issues. Discussions are still on-going
 - Rugby youth organization request for use of Post field
 - Considerations for approval:



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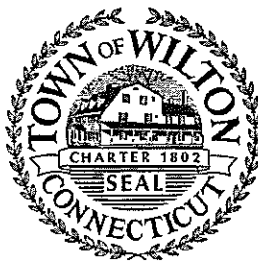
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1. Are there participants from Wilton in the program? Yes
 2. Does their use prevent any Wilton orgs from using the field? No
 3. Is the organization a youth non-profit? Yes
 4. Ample parking for participants during times of use? Yes
 5. Existing precedent to allow non-profit with participants from multiple towns? Yes
- Motion to grant use of Post Field at no cost trial basis, to revisit at end of spring by Commissioner Burke; seconded by Pam Brown; passed 4-0-0.
- Commissioner Burke will be leaving the Commission effective following the May meeting. We thank Commissioner Burke for his 7 years of service on the Commission. We invite candidates interested in the Commission to contact their party contact.
 - Open Position on P&R Commission: Interested parties should reach out to their party lead: Paul Burnham, Democratic Nominating Committee; Al Alper, Republican Nominating Committee. For independent candidates, there is a form at Town Hall to fill out for consideration

VI. Old Business

- Parks & Grounds Grid
- Rental fees (Comstock)
 - Pam to meet with Steve to review comparison information
- Trash/recycling
 - Pete to meet with DPW and understand options (carry in, carry out)
- Parks and Recreation Manual
 - Edits being incorporated for review next week
- Update on Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee
 - In RFP phase. Combined into one RFP. In Town Council and Town Hall for review. When open position is filled, Commission to discuss new P&R rep to that project
- Update on 2017 Concert/Movie Nights



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- 2 events at each, free concerts for the community
 - Wilton Sports Council update
 - No report this week

VII. Public Comment
None

VIII. Joint Field Usage and Field Location Sub Committee Meeting

In attendance: P&R Commissioner & Field Usage Subcommittee Chair Jennifer Kendra, Commissioner & Subcommittee Chair Joe Burke, Commissioner Pete Connolly, Commissioner Pam Brown, subcommittee members Taraleigh Masterson, Chris Skillin, JR Sherman

Absent: WHS AD Chris McDougall

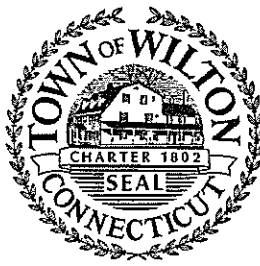
A. Call to Order: Commissioner Kendra called the meeting to order at 8:30pm, seconded by subcommittee member Skillin, approved 6-0-0

B. Approval of Minutes from Field Usage January 2017 Meeting

- Motion to approved by Commissioner Connolly, seconded by subcommittee member Masterson. Passed 4-0-0

C. New Business

- Results of Field Usage expanded questionnaire: All youth sports organizations were contacted for a second time to gain additional insight into field needs based on issues of surface most appropriate for the sport, current fields being allocated, volume of participants on fields, issues with scheduling, high school priority placement, projected needs going forward and concerns.
 - Wilton Youth Baseball and Softball reported ample fields for use and did not have a need for additional playing spaces.



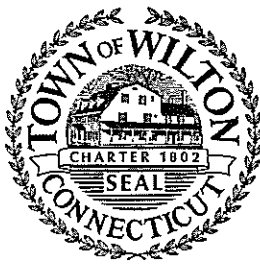
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- WSA indicates an ample number of fields available to the program, however, it was noted that if changes to availability are made at properties such as Ambler Farms, where the number of games have needed to be reduced to deal with parking issues, the program may find itself in need of additional field access to meet its scheduling needs.
 - Wilton Youth Football reported significant shortage of fields due to lack of lighting, limited turf availability, grass field closings due to weather and overall overcrowding. Youth football reported that multiple teams are practicing on each field at the same time, with not enough space for the volume. Some teams are squeezing into spaces between fields resulting in poor quality of training, risk of accidents due to overcrowding and an overall negative experience for youth players, coaches and parents. Football practices are in the evenings and lighting of fields limits where they can play. With Middlebrook no longer an option due to loss of lighting is further exacerbating field overcrowding. Optimal space would include 2 additional turf fields to accommodate volume, improve playing experiences, mitigate weather cancellations, avoid conflicts with the high school and increase coordination with other programs needing the same fields.
 - Wilton Lacrosse Boys and Girls echoed similar issues, needs and concerns, compounded by limited access to turf which is the primary surface for the sport. In addition, overcrowding creates a safety issue for them as well. Optimal space would include 2 additional turf fields.
 - Wilton Youth Field Hockey echoed the same problem due to overcrowding, conflicts due to high school schedule changes and emphasized that unique to field hockey the sport itself is no longer played on grass in competitive arenas. It is a turf game and training on grass puts the program at a disadvantage, limits player development and makes the sport far less enjoyable, especially for young players, thus impacting the quality and experience of the program. Youth field hockey requests 2 additional turf fields to



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accommodate the growing program and need for proper training surfaces.

- All programs continue to grow in numbers either in current offerings or through new playing opportunities.
- Soccer, field hockey and lacrosse play year round, yet in the off-season for programs such as boys and girls lacrosse and field hockey, almost no field time exists to run these programs. As a result, programs take on significant costs for indoor space or resort to playing a very limited schedule which does not meet their needs.
- Determine if additional information is needed
 - Regarding field usage, the committee feels they have enough information at this stage to formulate a recommendation.

D. Field Location Subcommittee Report

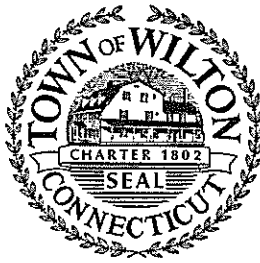
- Commissioner Burke, Director Pierce and subcommittee member Sherman shared a map and description of all Town owned properties currently not developed for use. Initial pros and cons to each site for field development was shared with the group.
- Next steps:
 - The field location subcommittee will provide follow up information listing out each property, suitability for public use, ballpark costs to make each site viable for use and a recommendation of the top options based on the evaluation process.

E. Plan future meetings and next steps

- Combined groups plan to discuss initial findings with First Selectman Vanderslice for feedback
- Formal recommendation planned to be submitted at the next P&R Commission meeting

F. Old Business

- None



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G. Public Comment

- None

IX Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Commissioner Brown made motion to adjourn; Commissioner Connolly seconded; Passed
4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kendra
Commissioner

