

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON

2017 NOV 14 A 11: 29

BY: *LK*



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
November 8, 2017
Comstock Community Center
7:30 PM

Present: Chairman Pete Connolly, Commissioners Jennifer Kendra, John Macken, Pam Brown, Bill Lalor, Parks and Recreation Director, Steve Pierce, BOS representative Dave Clune.

- I. Call to order: 7:34pm
- II. Approval of Minutes of July 12, 2017 and October 11, 2017 meetings
 - Chairman Connolly motioned to approve minutes from the July 12th meeting. Commissioner Kendra seconded. Approved 3-0-2
 - Chairman Connolly motioned to approve minutes from the October 11th meeting. Commissioner Kendra seconded. Approved 5-0-0
- III. SIMM Committee Update – Dr. John Priest
 - Shared details for combined RFP. With Town Council for review before the RFP is posted. Projects within the scope of the project will include a combination of town funded and private funded components. Once the RFP is posted and contractor is selected, there will be a point at which the public can comment and schematics will be developed and approved.
- IV. Staff Reports
 - Parks & Grounds Report
 - Prepping for Spring, Fall clean up and re-sodding
 - Recreation Report
 - New P&R software beginning implementation this month
 - December phasing in for community to begin to utilize with full integration by Spring
 - Rec basketball is underway



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

- New fencing program is taking off; Tues/Thurs 12+ kids enrolled so far ages 7 - adult
- Tennis Court Resurfacing Project
 - Courts estimated to be complete the week of Nov 13th, weather permitting
 - Entryways will be paved as the last step of completion

V. Correspondence

- Note received about closer parking to Merwin Meadows fields. Once town completes footbridge from train station this will alleviate this issue. There are no alternatives for closer parking.
- Pickleball Lines on Tennis Courts: Received several emails from residents opposed to and several in favor of Pickleball lines at route 7 tennis courts.

VI. New Business

- Track proposal – update
 - Original budget \$80K, issue is the asphalt below that has been there for 30 years. Funds were utilized to test the base and weaknesses were found that could undermine the new surface. Kevin Foley & Beverly Hermann have been heading this up with Steve Pierce's to explore improvement options. An estimate will be presented to Lynne Vanderslice for discussion. This is planned to be privately funded as a gift to the town.
- Update on "Carry in, Carry out" pilot program – discuss pending state law
 - P&R Commission has been fielding questions and suggestions as we monitor the pilot
 - Results to date, we are not seeing any more extraneous trash on the fields than was left in the past when receptacles were there
 - One main problem to date has been those who dump into the port-o-potties. Signs have been added to discourage and this has improved.
 - Wilton is also consulting with other towns to share ideas
 - Point was raised to discuss with the Middlebrook project under Heather Priest
- Pickle ball update – discussion of "To Do's"



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

Background shared by Chairman Connolly:

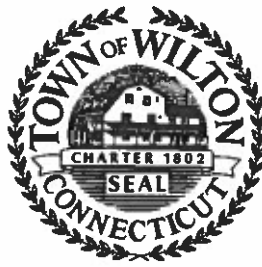
In the July P&R Commission Meeting, a Wilton resident, Kim Becker, proposed adding 7 new pickleball courts as follows:

1. Three at the new Comstock Basketball courts by painting lines over the existing painted lines.
2. Four at the new route 7 tennis courts currently under construction by adding phantom painted lines on courts #7 and #8. This part of the request has been changed and Kim is now requesting PB lines be added to court #8 only.
3. Prior to this request for the PB lines to be added at Comstock basketball courts and Route 7 tennis courts, Kim requested that the Town add 2 PB courts by adding phantom lines two Middlebrook tennis courts and this was completed within a few days. The process to add phantom lines at the Middlebrook courts is different than the request for them at the Route 7 courts. The process at the Middlebrook courts was to drill a hole at the base of the center of the tennis net and add a bungy cord to pull the net down to the height required to play PB. This process cannot be repeated at the Route 7 courts as post tension courts cannot have holes drilled in them.
4. The Town also has one PB court in the Comstock gym.
5. Also of note, the Wilton Y recently added 3 PB courts that can be used at certain times during day at a nominal fee of \$10 for walk-ins.

The current PB proposal

The two Middlebrook PB courts are only usable during non-school hours, but are freely usable all day long during the summer. The Comstock PB court in the gym is usable all day long during summer and school hours. The High School and P&R Summer and weekend programs have preference for use of all tennis courts and Comstock gym.

The advantage of adding the PB courts at the Comstock basketball courts is that it addresses the issue of being available during school hours. The advantage of adding PB lines at the route 7 courts is that it also can be used during school hours (subject to HS priority for PE classes and tennis and Cider Mill class use) and at night.



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

After the July P&R meeting, Steve Pierce, Dave Clune and I met with Lynne Vanderslice to take her through the PB request. Lynne, who was very supportive of adding PB courts to Wilton, gave us three "To Do's" as follows:

1. Monitor Comstock basketball court usage when school re-opens in September
2. Get feedback from the HS athletic director, coaches, the FCIAC and the CIAC
3. Search for alternative locations or other possible solutions

We have completed the "To Do's" and here are our findings:

1. The HS athletic director and coaches are against the proposal as the PB lines (see handout) are too close to the back lines of the tennis court and given the speed at which the tennis balls move, would be very confusing to players. They also noted that the game is a student officiated game so they would have to make split second decisions.
2. The CIAC and FCIAC both wrote letters saying that they are not in favor of the PB lines and if the PB lines were added, they would be excluded from hosting tournaments in the future.
3. The Comstock basketball courts are in constant use by kids after school and on weekends.
4. Steve met with Superintendent Smith to ask if he would be opposed to adding PB lines to the Raised asphalt lot on the left as you pull into the Middlebrook lot. Dr. Smith stated that he was not opposed to adding two PB courts there.
5. Steve put together an estimate of what it would cost to add PB only courts right next to the Route 7 courts that would have lights. The estimate would be approximately \$75,000. Similar to the task completed to review sites for new turf fields, Steve has been looking into this or other town owned sites to come up with a solution to work for everyone in the community.

- **Public Comment:**

1. Chairman Connolly read an email from Kim Becker per her request as should was not able to attend the meeting.



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

-
2. Yvonne D'Aquino, JV Girl's Coach – already a wait time for courts, raised issue about out of town players, noise from pickleball, Already JV girls and boys going to Middlebrook as they cannot get access due to Varsity use.
 3. Jonathan Murphy, parent of high school player. Raised issue of limited resources and lines are very important. Quality of the new courts benefit the town based on the tournaments they will ring in. Raised a second issue about players and new UTR ranking system.
 4. Amanda Lord, question about volume of usage at Comstock and is there wait time; is there parking lot space that can be use at Comstock. Raised the comment that pickle ball lines should never have been put on the Middlebrook courts.
 5. Tor Aronson, WHS tennis co-captain used the comparison of how we protect the turf and same consideration should be given to use of the tennis courts. Raised majority versus minority.
 6. Rithwik Shivram, WHS tennis co-captain added that not only high school players use the courts but skilled players across the tennis community heavily utilize the courts. He also shared when looking at Wilton facebook pages and the comments and posts around tennis far outweighs any commentary about pickle ball indicating the demand for tennis as higher.
 7. Debbie Gehrlein, adding lines impacts ball bounce as painted lines cause the tennis balls to skid, even if they are faded in color.
 8. General question was asked about how the proposal process works. Dave Clune explained the role of P&R commission to vet issues, gain information and make a recommendation to the BOS for their official review.
 9. Sandra Adams, raised a question about the timing of Kim Becker's proposal versus when the tennis court process was planned and voted on. Concern was raise about this proposal seeming to circumvent the process that was completed and voted on to secure new courts and by someone from out of town.
 10. Charles & Laime Hattenbach – agree with alternative site proposal but not on the new courts at the expense of the tennis community
 11. Sign in sheet was circulated to residents in attendance to indicate their position as for the adding of pickle ball lines or opposed to adding lines to the Comstock



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

basketball courts and/or the tennis courts on route 7. We received 18 names opposed and 0 in favor of the lines from those in attendance.

Public Comment was closed at 9:05pm

- Commissioner Connolly made a motion to turn down adding pickle ball lines to the Comstock basketball courts, seconded by Commissioner Macken. Passed 5-0-0
- Commissioner Kendra made a motion to turn down the adding of pickle lines to the route 7 tennis courts, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Passed 5-0-0
- Commissioner Kendra made a motion to seek approval for the lining of 2 courts at the Middlebrook upper left asphalt lot for pickle ball pending review of appropriateness, use and payment of costs, seconded by Commissioner Macken. Approved 5-0-0
- Chairman Connolly made a motion to raise for consideration to the Board of Selectmen of alternate site on town land for pickle ball that will include a post tension court with lights at an approximate cost of \$75,000, subject to raising of private funds for payment of costs, seconded by Commissioner Kendra. Passed 5-0-0.

VII. Old Business

- Parks and Recreation Manual – review and approval – already approved
- Update on Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee – provided by Dr. John Priest in section III above.
- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation update – all banners are up and discussion around keeping them up as long as possible without damage and wear issues. Funds generated are intended to fund repair and replacement of the field and facilities.

VIII. November Elections for Chairman and Secretary



STEVE PIERCE
Director

SCOTT KIERAS
Assistant Director

JIM LEWICKI
Program Coordinator

BEVERLY HODGE
Administrative
Secretary

-
- Commissioner Lalor made a motion to nominate Pete Connolly for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Brown, Passed 4-0-1
 - Chairman Connolly made a motion to nominate John Macken for Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Lalor, Passed 4-0-1. A special mention was made by Chairman Connolly to new Secretary Macken to emphasize the importance of getting minutes posted to the town site on time to comply with FOIA regulation. Chairman Connolly recognized that minutes from his first meeting as Chairman in May had been posted late due to a family emergency and that the Commission recognizes the importance of making sure minutes are posted on time. He also indicated that he has since built a process whereby the Secretary sends out the draft minutes within three days and the Chairman will take responsibility for posting them on time. To help ensure this occurs, the Secretary will be copied on the email when sent to the Wilton Town email for posting and will monitor to ensure they are posted within the 7 calendar days deadline.

IX. Public Comment

- All public comment is reflected in the above pickle ball update section of the meeting in section IV "New Business"

X. Adjourn

- Chairman Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34, seconded by Commissioner Lawlor. Passed 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kendra
Commissioner