

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
May 12, 2021 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a) Commissioners: Bilella, Guglielmo, Macken, Ring
- b) Director of P&R: Pierce
- c) Ex Officio: None
- d) Public: Joe Bear

Absent:

- a) Commissioners: Kendra

- I. Call to Order. Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.
- II. Approval of Minutes for April 14, 2021 – Bilella made a motion to approve, Ring seconded.
Approved 3-0-1 (Guglielmo abstained; Kendra absent.)
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce reported that correspondence had been received from Norwalk River Watershed Association (to be discussed later in VI.)
- IV. COVID-19 Updates – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce reported the CDC just provided guidance for camps, and P&R Dept. is reviewing the information. Once done reviewing, P&R will then refer to OEC and plan accordingly.
- V. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action
 - Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce advised that paving is complete, and that Cape & Island is doing a great job. Following the completion of all BOE activities, including Class of 2021 graduation ceremony, the final phase of the project will begin on June 21 and targeted to end on July 16. The field and track will be completely closed to the public during that time. Monitors will be at the track to prevent anyone from entering the track while surfacing is being performed. Pierce also reported that the Town will communicate through all media channels so that the community is made aware of the track closure dates of June 21 through July 16.
- VI. Native Meadow/Pollinators Project at Allen's Meadow – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce reminded the Commissioners of the native meadow project that was reviewed by the P&R Commission at the January 8, 2020 P&R Commission meeting. Along with other projects, the native meadow project's review process was put on hold by the Town during COVID. Now the Norwalk River Watershed Association ("NRWA") is requesting the restart of the project's review process. Pierce advised that meadow experts have reviewed the project (Winston & Co.) and proper insurance is in place by the NRWA (Pierce confirmed that the Town has a copy of the COI.) Joe Bear and Jamie Van Acker will be taking the lead on this project for the NRWA. Motion made by Ring to approve the project be sent to the

BOS for its review and consideration, Guglielmo seconded. **Approved 4-0-0** (Kendra absent.)

VII. Indoor Field House Project Concept Exploration Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce provided an update regarding bidding for preliminary feasibility study. Budget of \$25K was approved by the BOS for the feasibility study. Request for proposals was sent to four firms. Pierce stated that bidders' responses will be reviewed starting next week.

VIII. Park Benches/Potential Offering Update – discussion and/or action

- Guglielmo reported that there is no update at this time. P&R Commission will await further direction from the Town leads (Mike Conklin and Liz Lambert) as the Schenck's Island project proceeds. For now, this topic will be placed on hold.

IX. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Parks & Grounds Report – Pierce reported that the Town is still filling openings for seasonal help. Fields are in very good shape. Pierce shared that the Town is moving from FLASH to HTML for its field closure alerts (email and text), and there has been notification disruptions and glitches, where updates were not being sent in a timely fashion. Presently, only email notifications have been fixed and are working as they should. Text notifications are still not functioning properly and are being addressed.
- Recreation Report – Pierce reported that the May 8, 2021 event run by In a Heartbeat Foundation had approximately 275 children participate in its ECG testing. Bilella reported that her children participated, and the process for testing was orderly and very professional and the event was very well run. Pierce shared that there will be no Town Memorial Day Parade and no fireworks for Fourth of July. Pierce advised there will be additional media communication for summer programs, and that the spring programs are lacking in attendance levels. A Pitch/Hit/Run program will be offered by P&R; notification will be through multiple media channels. The Town has approved third party vendors to use Town facilities, effective now.

X. Member Comment

- Macken commented stating his disappointment with the Town's decision to not have a Memorial Day Parade.
- Bilella commented regarding the start up of in-person Town Commission meetings in June going forward for the remainder of 2021. Bilella also commented that Wilton High School recently communicated that it will hold an in-person graduation on June 12, 2021 at 1PM EDT, with a rain date of June 13, 2021; further details to follow.

XI. Public Comment – None

XII. Adjourn – Bilella moved to adjourn the meeting, Ring seconded. **Approved 4-0-0** (Kendra absent). Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.