

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
July 14, 2021 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a) Commissioners: Bilella, Macken, Kendra
- b) Director of P&R: Pierce
- c) Ex Officio: None
- d) Public: JD Freda, Theodora Pinout

Absent:

- a) Commissioners: Ring, Guglielmo

- I. Call to Order – Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2021 – Will be held for approval until next P&R Commission meeting due to Macken absent from June meeting and commission needing at least three members in attendance from the June meeting to approve.
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
 - An email was received by Pierce from Annette Kaye requesting priority be given to Wilton residence for use of the Town's tennis courts at WHS and Middlebrook (when redone) and asking the possibility of building a new playground at Merwin Meadows. Pierce shared with the Commission history on prior monitoring and fee-based model in the early 1990's and how a review of monitoring was performed again when the tennis courts were renovated in the recent past. Pierce also provided information on how some other surrounding towns manage their tennis court usage. The Commission members saw charging town residents a fee as an unnecessary burden and suggested as a take-away that Pierce and his team monitor usage and gain more feedback. Pierce will also investigate the cost of system/equipment if reservations and monitoring were the new approach. A new playground is in the queue of capital projects for P&R's fiscal year budget in the near term.
- IV. Lightening Detection System Update – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce shared with the Commission that the PO is signed, and the contract document is under review. Target for install and the system being fully operational = by the time Fall sports begin conference play.
- V. Hideaway Circus - discussion and/or action
 - Pierce provided the event will be held at Comstock the last weekend of August, and the sale of tickets has been very good, with over 500 being sold already.
- VI. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action
 - Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce advised that the continued wet weather this month has impacted the completion date and that the July 16th completion date will be

delayed by an estimated 10-12 working days, pending no further weather issues. New target date for completion is the end of July, which is still prior to any WHS Fall sports' preseasons. It was suggested by Bilella that P&R issue a short communication to the public once the track is completed reminding residents about track usage protocols (i.e., no bikes, scooters, strollers, etc. allowed on the track).

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

- Pierce stated that the attorneys are finalizing the agreement. Study is set to begin next week and is expected to take 10 weeks to complete.

VIII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

Pierce reported:

- Parks & Grounds Report
 - Middlebrook tennis court renovation agreement is under review by Town Counsel. Cost is \$350K. Vendor reported to Pierce a delay in some materials (metal cabling) and anticipates delivery in the next couple of weeks.
 - Full seasonal staff are busy with standard maintenance.
- Recreation Report
 - Camp enrollment is very good and increased.
 - A Merwin Meadows pond concern by a resident was discussed. Pierce educated the Commission on the Town's existing protocols with monitoring, testing, and maintenance of the pond. Pierce also shared that the latest test results were all good and the Director of Health approved the reopening of Merwin Meadows.

IX. Member Comment -- None

X. Public Comment – Theodora Pinout (public) shared her thoughts and support for charging non-residents for use of our Town's tennis courts.

XI. Adjourn – Bilella moved to adjourn the meeting, Kendra seconded. **Approved 3-0-0** (Ring and Guglielmo absent.) Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.