

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
July 8, 2020 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance:

- a. Commissioners: Bilella, Kendra, Ring
- b. Director of P&R: Pierce
- c. Ex Officio: None
- d. Public: None

Absent:

- a. Macken, Guglielmo

- I. Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:49 pm (after some technical difficulties experienced with Zoom bandwidth).
- II. Approval of Minutes for June 10, 2020 – Motion made by Kendra, seconded by Ring.
Approved 3-0-0 (Macken and Guglielmo absent).
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
 - One correspondence from resident John Llewellyn about a public golf course in Wilton, encouraging diversity and inclusion.
- IV. Phase 2 Opening Updates – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce reported that all staff are back. During Phase 2, the State put in levels of risk – low, medium, high. High risk sports were limited until July 6th, so P&R kept basketball courts closed until this date. Now open and in use after 4:00 pm and before 8:00 am due to P&R's day camp at Comstock. Merwin Meadows is now open to residents only. Passes can be obtained at Merwin Meadows and online. No fee this season and no lifeguards – *swim at own risk*. 100-person limit. Maximum daily count that P&R has seen thus far is 60 residents. Dial-a-Ride is beginning operation on Monday, July 13th with a two-passenger maximum and only two vans running. One passenger will be required to sit in front and one in back with no passing inside the vehicle. All PPE requirements are in place. Social Services has been posting assistance services (like rides) for Seniors during COVID. Fall sports season is still in question. Sports associations plans approved thus far by Health Director are as follows: Youth Football Boosters, WBSA, Little League, WHS Boys Lax Boosters, WYFH Boosters, WFHA, WHS Soccer Booster, WHS Football Boosters. Plans included details such as where coaches stand versus players, how is shared equipment dealt with, temperature taking before participation, social distancing, PPE, etc. Thus far all associations/Boosters are taking this very seriously and being diligent. WHS AD will need to submit a plan for each Fall sport to be reviewed and approved by the Health Director as well – this will be a significant effort. Even if CIAC announces play can resume for Fall sports, each town/school has discretion to proceed based on their own safety evaluation, standards and needs.
- V. Phase 3 Opening Updates – discussion and/or action

- Pierce stated that the next phase has been pushed back indefinitely by the State with no update on possible dates or modifications to requirements.

VI. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Parks & Grounds Report – Pierce advised that four seasonal staff have started to complement the five year-round P&R personnel. Staff are getting ready to mulch. Fields maintenance continues as usage increases. Monitors at facilities has stopped except for Merwin Meadows. Town will not be entertaining any third-party usage/renting of our fields this summer and likely into the Fall. Pierce met with Stantec and the final design of the track will be done by the end of August, with the intention to go to public vote during November election. WHS AD to provide guidance and expertise on all track markings and will need to sign off on this aspect along with P&R. Pollener Pathway group are still interested in advancing a meadow at Allen's Meadow and will be required to submit a plan that addresses all COVID requirements to the Health Director for review and sign-off. Pierce requested from this group an estimate for ongoing costs to maintain the meadow, and legal review will also be required. Plan will then be shared with P&R Commission. P&R staff really missed the Town's 4th of July preparation activities and manning the event.
- Recreation Report – Pierce shared that P&R summer day camp participation has been steady with 34/32/27/24 weekly attendance/registered for Weeks 1-4. Pierce to provide the number of repeat campers. Seen strong participation in P&R's tennis classes with 25/25/35/32 weekly attendance/registered for Weeks 1-4. Baseball camp started this week and has 13 participants. Outdoor yoga program under review now. Fall program planning has started.

VII. On-going Business – discussion and/or action

- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation Update – None
- Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee Update – None

VIII. Member Comment

- Ring commending Pierce for working so well with the youth groups, being an advocate, and help them get back to using the facilities safely.

IX. Public Comment – None

X. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Ring, seconded by Kendra at 8:41pm. **Approved 3-0-0** (Macken and Guglielmo absent).