

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
October 14, 2020 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a. Commissioners: Bilella, Macken, Ring, Guglielmo
- b. Director of P&R: Pierce
- c. Ex Officio: None

Absent:

- a. Commissioners: Kendra

- I. Call to Order - Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for September 9, 2020 - Motion made by Ring, seconded by Macken. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-1** (Guglielmo abstained due to absence from September meeting; Kendra absent tonight).
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
 - No correspondence.
- IV. COVID-19 & Phase 2 Updates – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce shared that the Town went into Phase 3 on October 8th. Schools moved to hybrid and in-person so remote learning at Comstock has scaled back and is Wednesdays only now.
- V. Fall Sports (Youth and HS) – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce reported that fall sports are halfway through their season, and high school and youth programs are being supported by P&R. Discussion held regarding requirements for attendance of high school sporting event. Pierce noted that P&R is not responsible for opening/closing of seating/bleacher areas for sports or determining attendance. High school is managing the opening/closing of seating/bleacher areas at games.
- VI. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action
 - Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce provided potential renderings and cost estimates for the track replacement. Pierce, Macken and WHS AD are working on the review with Stantec. Pierce reported that the recommendation is to install a nonporous track design (not a spray on but rather, a pour on track) – Beynon 300 red color, which has a 20-25-year life expectancy and a 5-year warranty. Harvard uses this track type, and it holds up well in New England weather. Evaluation of comparable track surfaces included certain tracks that were much more expensive. Macken stated that consideration was to recommend a track that would provide the most value to the town at an efficient cost. Estimated costs shared by Pierce - \$1.114M for Beynon 300 track in red (cost includes the work required to address the pitching of the area for water to sheath off of track into drainage), additional \$85K if track color is blue, and an additional \$22K if track painted blue with grey exchange lanes. More labor-intensive process of adding grey exchange lanes could add to maintenance costs if/when any repainting or resurfacing needed. Pierce advised that the bidding could be done

through the National Bid Board, which then has the potential to increase the 5-year warranty to 7 years. There would be a performance bond with financial penalties included as part of the contracting. Pierce requested that the Commission consider the proposal (Beynon 300 red track with contingency to add color based on final costs and economics) to move forward to the next step of the BOS reviewing the proposal. Bilella made motion to approve the proposal to move forward to next step of review by BOS, Ring seconded. Vote taken. **Approved, 4-0-0** (Kendra absent tonight).

VII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Pierce reported on the following:
 - Parks & Grounds Report – Soccer field renovation commencing at Merwin Meadows. Fall cleanup has begun. Court 4 at WHS tennis courts chipped paint is getting fixed.
 - Recreation Report – Remote learning decreased to Wednesdays only due to schools opening. Focus now on programs starting back up, such as basketball. P&R in process of drafting COVID policies around Rec basketball and working closely with the WBA to support their programming plans, including the potential for try-outs outside at Comstock. CT Dept. of Public Health now has put basketball as a “Moderate” risk (was originally marked as ‘High’). P&R will continue to support winter sports as they proceed to obtain approvals as needed from EOC, Health Director, and/or BOE.

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

- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation Update – Pierce reported that WARF removed banners temporarily at Lily Field so spectators can view from the parking lot.
- Schenck’s Island Merwin Meadows Committee Update – Pierce shared that consideration was given to a possible dog park at Schenck’s Island, but it was deemed not an appropriate location by the Town for multiple reasons. P&R is supporting the efforts to define other potential sites that could be considered for a dog park. Pierce has also reached out to Will Haskell to seek assistance with potential State-owned properties. Pierce stated that a skate park was not included in the public’s ideas/suggestions received for land use at Schenck’s Island last year, however, there has been recent interest and inquiry. A new park (i.e., dog or skate) would require private funds to be raised.

IX. Member Comment

- Ring inquired about timing of dog park. Pierce stated it is under exploration.
- Bilella asked what the status on the memorial plaque for George DiRocco was, which P&R was asked to assist with by the Football Boosters. Pierce reported that a park bench with a plaque is to be installed near the WHS stadium and varsity softball field.

X. Public Comment – NONE

XI. Adjourn – Bilella moved to adjourn meeting, Macken seconded. Vote taken. **Approved 4-0-0** (Kendra absent tonight). Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.