

**MINUTES**  
**Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**November 11, 2020 / 7:30 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

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

**Absent:**

- a. Commissioners: Kendra, Guglielmo

- I. Call to Order – Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for October 14, 2020 – Motion made by Macken, seconded by Ring. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-0** (Kendra and Guglielmo absent tonight).
- III. Annual Elections for P&R Commission Chairperson and Secretary – discussion and/or action
  - Re-election of Guglielmo as Secretary for 2021 – Motion by Macken, seconded by Ring. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-0** (Kendra and Guglielmo absent tonight).
  - Re-election of Bilella as Chairperson for 2021 – Motion by Macken, seconded by Ring. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-0** (Kendra and Guglielmo absent tonight).
- IV. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
  - Bilella shared email from Ross Tartell, as a private citizen, thanking the P&R Commission for its efforts on the track replacement project and suggesting we consider the possible alternative of the standard track color combined with a new color for the exchange lanes.
- V. COVID-19, Phase 3 & Phase 2.1 Rollback Updates – discussion and/or action
  - State of CT has published new rules and guidance with the rollback to Phase 2.1, which includes indoor sports requirements. Pierce shared that indoor high school winter sports will not start until December 5<sup>th</sup> and this will be conditioning only. High school sports schedules still need to be finalized. Pierce advised that Youth and high school sports will have to submit new plans for play that consider current COVID requirements, which will then be considered and ultimately need the approval of the Town's EOC and Health Director. The use of indoor school facilities this winter is on hold for all afterschool sports activities, town programs, and third parties.
- VI. Park Benches/Potential Offering Idea – discussion and/or action
  - Pierce informed the Commission that several donated benches exist in Town. Selectman's Office is the main contact, which can provide guidance on possible locations and the proper entity for permission (if not on Town property). Guglielmo to provide details and explain concept at next P&R Commission meeting for further consideration. Pierce will check to see if he can obtain the current total number of donated benches in Town.

VII. Dog Park Exploration Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce reported that after review of multiple locations in Town, the best location identified is ‘Allen’s Meadow East’, which is the land across the street from Allen’s Meadow entrance; it’s state land right before the old location of the Wilton Sports Shop. Pierce has been in contact with Will Haskell’s office, and they agreed to assist with getting the State to review a potential lease of the land starting in Spring of 2021. Pierce advised that private fundraising will need to be done first - prior to any project/next steps. Gregg Feldman, resident, leading the effort; cost and fundraising TBD by Feldman. Pierce stated that once a project plan is defined, it will be provided to the P&R Commission for its review and approval for further consideration by the BOS.

VIII. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action

- Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce informed the Commission that on November 9<sup>th</sup> the BOS unanimously approved the track replacement, and the BOF approved the \$1.2M project at its November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The approved project includes the blue track color and grey exchange zones/lanes. Pierce shared that the Back the Track’s anticipated donation will offset part of the costs; that amount is still TBD. Pierce is to confirm a final donation figure from the organization this month. Stantec to provide new navy color sample ASAP and then next step will be to go out to bid through the National Bid Board, which is anticipated to take four weeks to complete.

IX. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Pierce reported the following:
  - Parks & Grounds Report – Leaf cleaning has begun. Merwin Meadows soccer field renovations in motion. Baseball fields sodded. Middlebrook Field #1 (softball field) being cared for to address better drainage.
  - Recreation Report – P&R Halloween event at Comstock was a big success with over 400 bags of candy handed out in a socially-distance friendly way. P&R is planning a similar drive-by Holiday Event on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Details TBD, but it will be inclusive of all winter and holiday celebrations. Rec programs are currently being developed to address the latest COVID Phase 2.1 requirements and guidance. Rec basketball is a program that generates material revenue and will likely be impacted this year.

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

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

Bilella asked Pierce to contact representatives from both organizations to get any key efforts and/or areas of focus for the start of 2021.

XI. Member Comment

- Ring commended Pierce and the P&R Department for the work and collaboration efforts making Fall a success for Youth and WHS sports in light of COVID restrictions.

XII. Public Comment

- Gregg Feldman offered the following:

- Feldman was part of a 2016 effort to get a dog park in Wilton and identified spaces, but spaces did not get approved. So, in 2020 Feldman has asked the Town to assist by identifying potential location options. Pierce has been working with Feldman on this, and Feldman appreciates his time and efforts.
- Commercial sponsors and individual private donations are the anticipated sources of funding. Feldman will solidify fundraising commitments once the potential for a State land lease is confirmed. Cost is estimated to be between \$30K-\$40K. Maintenance costs and coverage will be addressed as part of an overall plan.
- Ridgefield's dog park is something Feldman would like to use as a model.

XIII. Adjourn – Bilella moved to adjourn the meeting. Ring seconded. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-0** (Kendra and Guglielmo absent tonight). Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.