

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
April 10, 2019
Comstock Community Center

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TOWN OF WILTON

2019 APR 12 P 12: 26

BY: LK

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Macken, Kendra, Bilella, Guglielmo (arrived late)
Director of Parks and Recreation: Pierce
Ex officio, First Selectman Representative: Clune

Absent:

Commissioners: Brown

- I. Call to Order 7:46 by Chairwoman Bilella
- II. Approval of Minutes for March 13, 2019 – **Approved 3-0-0** (Guglielmo late / not there for vote)
- III. Correspondence – None
- IV. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action
 - Track Study Update – Pierce met with two third-party companies to review safety and repairs. Neither company stated that the track was in poor/unusable condition. Defined repairs will be performed week of April 15 (weather dependent). Approximately \$15K for these repairs, which is an approved budget transfer. P&R doing the demo of rubberized surface. American is the paving company, and Nagle Athletic Services is the surface company. Plan is to be ready for April 22 first home Track meet.
- V. Lily Field – discussion and/or action
 - LAX Opening Play Feedback from March 23 - Feedback that field was slippery on that day. Low temps hold the moisture in the coconut husk material, thus leaving surface slippery. Problematic early in the spring when temperatures are extremely cold. Only way to avoid is to treat with salt. Pierce investigated cost with vendor, which is estimated to be approximately \$12K per application (cost prohibitive).
- VI. POCD Process – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce & Bilella to update Commission - Bilella and Pierce reviewed and provided requested revisions to the Town Planner for further distribution to appropriate POCD leads. Addressed specific notes for pages 50, 71, 72, 78 and 90 changing Lead Entity status from P&R to other more appropriate entities, and rather, P&R to be noted as a Support Entity.
- VII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action
 - Parks & Grounds Report
 - Spring sports season are now in full swing. Recently hosted Weston due to unusable field conditions that they experienced last minute.
 - Recreation Report
 - Four quality candidates for open position were interviewed and one to be presented for final consideration

- Building monitor, Bob Coella, passed away last week. He was a long-standing employee of P&R.
- Expanded community gardens with new irrigation and compost area
- P&R to be evolving social media use. New Administrative Manager will lead that effort and planning.
- Programming for summer has been launched and communicated. P&R hosting a programming working group discussion in the near term to enhance communication, coordinate and collaboration in the overall town's programming with the YMCA, Continuing Ed, etc.
- P&R mapping all the AEDs in town and will publish on the Town's website
- Seasonal P&R crews hired, and summer program staff being arranged now
- Adult softball team numbers are down. This is a trend in the area across many towns per Pierce.
- Ambler Farm Parking Lot Review
 - Four alternatives were drafted and sent to Pierce - two are most viable based on cost, least disruption to neighbors and maximizing spaces. Awaiting pricing from Blades & Goven to fully assess the options before passing to First Selectwoman for consideration.

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

- Update on Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee
 - Hosted a meeting for residents was lightly attended in March. Second meeting is scheduled for April 28. Reminder communication about this follow-up meeting will be sent out shortly by P&R.
 - Merwin is a mandatory public access point given the pond is spring fed versus man made. Thus, must be open to all versus town residents only
 - Intent is a holistic approach to tie the two properties together in complement of one another versus duplication of service/programming
 - Current uptick of cars illegally parking on NRVV trail behind Portofino's restaurant. Police to be patrolling and eventually ticketing cars.
- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation Update
 - Tom O'Dea advised at a recent RTC meeting that the proposed bill to ban the purchase and use of turf fields was 'killed' by the Speaker of the House, but we have found nothing public to confirm this. Once confirmed, we will request meeting with WARF and BOS to restart the discussions around the possibility of a private/public turf project for North Field.

IX. Member Comment

- Pierce - Budgets were approved and put forth to BOF. BOF cut budgets this week by \$309K (BOS) and \$1.1M (BOE). Presenting a significant challenge to all budget holders given plans were based on BOF guidance and came in initially below original BOF guidance. Now all related services, expenses and projects are being reviewed to meet the required decreases/cuts.

X. Public Comment - None

XI. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn at 9:04 PM - **Approved 4-0-0**