

ORANGE, CONN
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2022 MAY -2 PM 12:56



Orange Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Town Hall Meeting Room– 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday April 27, 2022

(Unapproved)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present: Chairman James O'Connor, Linda Kantor, Deborah Davis, Jack Pritchard, William Nicoletti, Chuck Stackpole, Dave Corris, and Stephen Bspuda

Commissioners Absent: James Ronai

Staff: Dan Lynch, Director of Parks and Recreation; Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guest: Tom Pisano, President of the Orange Soccer Association; Mr. Nick Calcaterra, 328 Hollow Lane

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked the Commission members to introduce themselves. On behalf of the entire Commission, Mr. O'Connor expressed condolence to Mr. Bspuda regarding the loss of his dad.

2. PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- Mr. Calcaterra, 328 Hollow Road, spoke on the need for a second entrance into Fred Wolfe Park. With both soccer and lacrosse games being held simultaneously, there is insufficient parking. Mr. Calcaterra felt that with the addition of a playground, there would be safety concerns with the heavy traffic flow. He distributed copies of an article he wrote in the Orange Town News, which was abbreviated for publishing. Chairman O'Connor agreed that a second entrance is a necessary part of the future development of this property. He advised that a Playground Committee was formed specifically to oversee the develop of the playground, which will be funded by a \$300k State Grant the town received.
- Mr. Pisano, 523 Fairway Road, reported that there will be signed petitions for the relocation of the playground at Fred Wolfe Park. Chairman O'Connor explained that the

location of the playground must be addressed at the Board of Selectmen meeting as this discussion is not at the level of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Mr. Bospuda addressed a portion of the article that was distributed by Mr. Calcaterra. He indicated that he is unaware of any town-owned land that is currently being leased out to farmers. Mr. Pisano disagreed, stating that there is a section of land being leased out and the agreement is due to expire in March, 2023. The Commission noted that there are no plans to move soccer games from Mary L. Tracy to Fred Wolfe Park. In fact, money has been invested to improve these fields for continued soccer use at Mary L. Tracy.

3. MINUTES –March 23, 2022

*Mr. Corris made a motion to approve the March 23, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor, with Stephen Bospuda, Mr. Corris, and Mr. Stackpole abstaining. The motion **PASSED.***

4. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Lynch will review any old business in his Director's Report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grounds and Facilities

- Mr. Bospuda gave a thorough report of the manhours of mowing the many locations within the Town of Orange, along with the painting of lines on the fields. The Parks and Recreation crew maintain the Town green, the Fairgrounds, the schools, all of the fields, Silverbrook, assist with the Open Space maintenance, as well as the pavilion rentals and all that it entails. There will be a total of four seasonal crew working this summer and they are extremely busy. Mr. Lynch indicated that he will invite Mr. Small to attend a Parks and Commission meeting to discuss all of their responsibilities within the town.
- Mr. Bospuda indicated that the Orange Soccer Association has finally fixed the rail fence at Fred Wolfe Park. He also clarified that Mr. Hines leases some private land for \$375 per year to farm. This is not town-owned property. Lastly, Mr. Bospuda shared some basic statistics and photos regarding the traffic flow and the parking at Fred Wolfe Park. {See addendum filed with the minutes at Town Hall for these statistics.}

B. Personnel – Jim O'Connor

- There was no report at this time.

C. Budget

- There were no questions on the budget at this time. Approximately 80% of the budget has been expended as the fiscal year ends June 30, 2022.

D. Director's Report

- Mr. Lynch reported that Day Camp is full, with the exception of a few spots in week four. There is currently a waitlist. The Parks and Recreation Department will be accepting applications for Camp Counselors until the end of the month. Traveling Teens is also almost full to capacity. Pavilion rentals, along with bicentennial activities, have filled up the use of the High Plains Fairgrounds most of the summer.
- Ms. Davis would like the department to purchase wind screens for the Tennis courts. Steve also suggested that lightweight portable bleachers could be considered for purchase.
- Mr. Lynch reported that non-residents can now purchase pool memberships. ARAC is also using the pool. The tennis courts are well used. It was noted that there has been a shift in demographics in the Town of Orange as more young families are moving in. Thirty children participated in April Vacation Camp and he thanked Ms. Middleton for putting together a great week of activities and overseeing the staff. Both an Aquatics Report and Programs Report have been included in the Commissioners' packets.
- Mr. Lynch reported that they will be obtaining estimates for cleanup in the proposed playground area at Fred Wolfe Park at the June Board of Selectmen meeting. The estimate will include some curbing, fencing and widening at the entrance of the park.

6. Chairman's Report

- There was no Chairman's Report at this time.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Bspuda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Ms. Davis. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary

Addendum to April 23, 2022 Parks and Recreation Minutes

Traffic Flow at Fred Wolfe Park

4/9 3:30 p.m. 30 cars in lot

4/10 3:00 p.m. 20 cars in lot

4/16 12:46 p.m. 3 cars in lot

4/23 10:45 a.m. 45 cars in lot

4/24 2:30 p.m. 25 cars in lot