Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2022
7:00 PM @ 31 Arbor Way, Ellington
(Zoom optional available)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Oliver, Thomas Boscariino, Tara Kozik, Cheri Murphy, Christopher Weitz, Shay Drake, Sherry Kraus and Kevin Hayes arrived at 7:06 PM.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dustin Huguennin, Director of Recreation; Mary Bartley, Assistant Director of Recreation; Jim Maitland and Rich Willis representatives of Friends of Ellington Tennis.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Oliver Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTING PROPOSAL
Jim Maitland, Friends of Ellington Tennis President presented to the Recreation Commission his view and the plans that the Friends of Ellington Tennis and other Town sport leagues and booster clubs have discussed within the last 6-8 months regarding the Athletic Field Lighting proposal. They expressed their views on the proposal. Friends of Ellington Tennis in conjunction with the other local youth athletic programs (i.e. Ellington Little League, Ellington Softball and Ellington Roadrunners), plan on sending out a flier to the Ellington Community around February 15th, regarding the lighting proposal. T. Boscariino and the rest of the commission discussed the proposal in more detail with Mr. Maitland. Mr. Maitland did ask Mr. Huguennin and the Recreation Commission if they would be in favor of sending out a mass email to Ellington families encouraging them to vote. Chairman Oliver said that there would have to be a discussion amongst the Recreation Commission regarding their view of this request.

III. DPH YOUTH & AMATEUR SPORT GUIDANCE
D. Huguennin and M. Bartley had a meeting with First Selectman L. Spielman on the new DPH guidance and her suggestion was to invite our District State Representatives: Dan Champagne, Jamie Foster and Senator Anwar to a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to discuss their concerns with the DPH guidance before the February 9th COVID State Legislative meeting. T. Boscariino suggested that only the first page of the document be sent. He also suggested adding “municipal” to the third bullet before recreation professionals.
T. Kozik requested that this letter go to the DPH Commissioner M. Juthani, M.D. with copies to our local representatives and the Ellington First Selectman.

MOTIONED (BOSCARINO) SECONDED (KOZIK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVE AND SIGN OFF ON THE PROPOSED LETTER TO COMMISSIONER MANISHA JUTHANI, M.D. OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AND DATE BE CHANGED TO THE DATE OF ISSUANCE WITH THE REVISION OF THE WORD MUNICIPAL TO BE INSERTED BEFORE RECREATION PROFESSIONALS ON 2ND LINE OF THE 3RD BULLET.

IV. ADJOURN
MOVED (OLIVER) SECONDED (WEITZ) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:30 PM.

Submitted By: 

Mary M. Bartley

Attachment
February 3, 2022

Commissioner Manisha Juthani, M.D.
Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134

Re: Department of Public Health COVID-19 Guidance for Sport - Concerns, Issues, and Operational Implications

Dear Commissioner Juthani,

Since the initial release of the DPH guidelines for winter sports participation in October 2021, the Department of Public Health has released two additional modifications to the guidelines with the most recent iteration effective January 10, 2022. Although intended to provide safe guidance parameters for participation in competitive interscholastic and recreational sports, the continuous modifications, as well as inconsistent messaging, application and enforcement, has raised multiple concerns and issues, as well as operational implications for all involved.

The Ellington Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the most recent guidance for participation in sport. In an effort to adhere to the guidelines, minimize additional administrative load on staff, and most importantly, maximize opportunities for sport participation, the Commission requests further consideration and review of the following:

- As effective and efficient implementation of the sport participation guidelines are essential for risk mitigation, simplify the guidelines and align K-12 and municipal recreation advisement.

- As scientific data and research is the cornerstone for all guidance, provide 'easy to access' information that supports the final guidelines.

- As recreation professionals are responsible to operationalize the sport participation guidelines established by the Department of Public Health, include municipal recreation professionals in the discussion and debate to establish the spring and summer guidelines for 2022.

We appreciate any communication you have to address our concerns. Please direct the response to Ellington Director of Recreation, Dustin Huguenin (860) 870-3118 or dhuguenin@ellington-ct.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellington Parks and Recreation Commission

cc: First Selectman Lori Spielman, Town of Ellington
CT State Senator Dan Champagne
CT State Senator Saud Anwar
CT State Representative Jaime Foster