

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**November 9, 2022**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 in the conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT. Zoom malfunctioned and Steve used his Microsoft Team program to connect with Bill, Sam, Andrew and Dave.

ATTENDANCE: .....Brian Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman (MT)  
.....Andrew Joly (MT)  
.....Sam Lombardo (MT)  
.....Stephen Marchillo  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Jay Bombard  
.....Stephanie Dolan  
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: .....Daniel Leonard, Recreation & Sports Programmer,  
representing for Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Brian read the agenda into the minutes:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Public Input
- C. Review of Minutes
- D. Correspondence
- E. Program Reports
- F. Old Business
  - a. Update basketball/tennis/pickleball project
  - b. Sub Committee Meeting dates
  - c. Bridge Street Park
  - d. Other
- G. New Business
  - a. Basketball update
  - b. Bowling Buddies' Holiday Party
  - c. Parks & Recreation Commission December Meeting
  - d. Other

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**MINUTES:** Steve made a motion to accept the minutes. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Dan said that Peter had received a thank you note from Mark and Chris Simmons thanking him for putting a bench on the bike path. The bench was in memory of the Simmons' son who passed away. The parents were very touched by the location of the bench as it has a lot of meaning. The public works department helped install the bench.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Dan reviewed some of the bowling buddies programs that Donna is conducting including a program for bowling buddies and their parents.

Soccer is over but there is a rain date makeup this coming Saturday.

Flag football ended last Saturday for ages 6 – 8 and 12 – 14. The age group 9 – 11 will end this Saturday. This is the first year for this program and it went well. I will work with Steve and coaches to review the program and any improvements it might need.

Pickleball is extremely popular and I am getting calls from people who want to play in the winter. Pickleball is ongoing now. Dan reviewed the programs we have now and said he will be working on adding times.

Dan a few other town employees held an Octoberfest Fundraiser at Hill Top Farm. The fundraiser was for funds to paint the barn. It was a fun event and Dan heard back from some townspeople that we need fun events.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update basketball/tennis/pickleball project:** The project is underway, the courts have been dug up, foundation has been laid, post are in for nets and in the spring, it will be painted once it warms up. There is also a new sidewalk/ramp to the school.

Once the courts are finished, we will be using them for tennis, pickleball and basketball.

**Sub Committee Meeting dates:** Peter would like the chairmen of the subcommittees to come up with some dates for meetings. There are 3 subcommittees: Long Term Planning, Major Events, and Sports. Brian said that he can initiate an email discussion where we clarify who is on the committees and have chairmen suggest meeting dates.

**Bridge Street Park:** Brian said he would like to talk about a subcommittee for this project or merge it into either Long-Term Planning or Major Events. The commission discussed whether we should have an ad hoc committee or put it under one of our present subcommittees. The consensus was to incorporate it into Long Term Planning.

Brian and Peter met with a representative of a firm that helps with fundraising, ASP Fundraising. At the meeting it was explained that their approach is 2 steps. The first step

is to develop a feasibility study and then we give a list of potential donors and they get feedback from them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> step is to help with the actual fundraising as advisors. The fee for step 1 (feasibility study) is \$25,000. You can purchase one or both components.

The commission discussed whether we need any of these services and the fee that is charged. Steve said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> step, the actual fundraising is something we could work on. There are also people in town who have experience with this and may be willing to help. Bill said he felt it was important to set up the fundraising as a charitable non-profit so people who donate can use it as a tax deduction. The commission discussed how we could do the fundraising, if we need a feasibility study, if we need this company's services and if yes, where would the money come from.

Steve said he would like to see them provide 3 recent examples of what they have done with similar projects.

**Other:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Basketball update:** Evaluations will be held November 30<sup>th</sup> for girls and December 1<sup>st</sup> for the boys. This is new this year. The evaluations will be for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone makes the team; evaluations are to make sure the teams are balanced.

We are getting strong registration numbers and the response for volunteer coaches is good.

There is a new law passed in Connecticut, Safe Sport Act, which goes into effect January 1. Volunteers will need to fill out forms and probably do some training. Andy said he thought it was a good thing and he didn't think anybody would mind.

Brian asked if Dan had coaches to help with the evaluations. He said he did. The players will get a number on their jersey and they will be evaluated. Last year we had one or two teams that were stronger than the rest.

**Bowling Buddies' Holiday Party:** Donna has been working hard to get this put together. The party is December 20<sup>th</sup> at Spare Time, starting at 6:30 p.m. If anyone can stop by and support the group it would be appreciated. This is a great group and they are a lot of fun.

**Parks & Recreation Commission December Meeting:** Brian said that the tradition is to hold the meeting at the chairman's home. He asked the commission if anyone was opposed to it. No one was opposed. The meeting will be held at Brian's home on Wednesday, December 14 starting at 7:00 p.m.

**Other:** Steve asked about ice skating this year. Dan said it was tried the past 2 years but the weather didn't cooperate. I'm sure that Peter is planning on trying to do it this year – it will depend on the weather.

Bill said we need to set the dates for our meetings for 2023 at the December meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting