

**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Teri Natoli, Chairperson
Robert Appleby
Arthur Bergman
Jessica Fletcher
Crispin Fresco-Hawes
Christina Grillo
Alan Maziarz

ABSENT

Doug Morrow
Diane Weston, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT

First Selectman Kevin Lyden

1. Call to order
Chairperson Natoli called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Act on a motion to approve the minutes from August 20, 2018
M/S/C: Appleby/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.
3. Report on the Financial Spreadsheet, D. Weston, and current Budget, T. Natoli
Chairperson Natoli will be speaking with the Public Works Director for clarification regarding a recent bill that was received for \$600.00, in addition to the previous bill for \$2,300.00, for the extension of the trail to the well road. Both bills have been paid. Approximately \$4,000.00 remains in their FY2017/18 budget and outstanding items include expenses for maintenance and porta-potties.
4. Adjustments to the Agenda
The following items were added to the Agenda:
 - 11 (d) Salem Gardening Club
 - (e) Bicentennial Event(s)
 - (f) Walktober
 - (g) Pickle Ball
5. Volunteer Field, Forsyth Road: Review of Current Blue Print, Brandon Handfield of Yantic River Consultants; Current Soccer needs, Damon Foster of Salem Soccer, Discussion of priorities for the project and preliminary timeline of construction events
Chairperson Natoli introduced and welcomed Yantic River Consultants Founder & Owner Brandon Handfield, PE, who has been working on the project for approximately two years. The

project originally consisted of the installation of a well and septic system in preparation for a future pavilion, restrooms, and playground/recreation area — all elements that were conceived by the volunteers in 2009 as part of a ten-year plan for the Park. In preparation, the volunteers installed the field, parking lots, and electrical panels. Soil tests have been conducted and a septic system was designed based upon the field's usage at that time and submitted to the Uncas Health District. They are currently at the point where the system can now be finalized and built.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed site plan and funding for the pavilion and bathrooms. Their only limitation in the placement of the pavilion and bathrooms is the location of the leaching field, which cannot be moved. Commissioner Grillo reported on a conversation she held with Joe Mendonça of Mendonça Soccer School regarding their interest in renting out the facility. During their conversation, Mr. Mendonça provided some suggestions, including ensuring adequate storage, installation of bathroom timers, limiting the number the bathroom stalls to decrease vandalism, and allowing for drainage in the bathrooms so that they can be hosed down, if necessary. It was noted that in Stonington, their bathroom facilities are made of stainless steel. Because there will be a well installed on the premises, water testing will take place to ensure its potability. The installation of a water fountain and a walking track around the field were introduced. Should funding be an issue, the possibility of installing a concrete pad in preparation for the pavilion and the bathroom was introduced. The possibility of obtaining pricing for a block vs. non-block structure or a structure with metal strips were also suggested.

Discussion ensued regarding the needs of the soccer league with Salem Surge Soccer Club President Damon Foster, who stated their interest in enhancing the field such that it would facilitate and create a better experience for the children, their families, and visitors, alike. The exact location and size of the pavilion was discussed. He suggested the possibility of installing lights. The Spring and Fall 2018 schedules and a roster summary will be provided for certification by the First Selectman. The revised numbers will, then, be amended and submitted to the State for a well screening. Meanwhile, the site plan can be finalized and the septic installation and building permits can be applied for.

Commissioner Grillo suggested the possibility of staking out the pavilion and slab for a better visual of its size and placement. Salem Volunteer Fire Company (SVFCO) Chief Gene Maiorano concurred, relating the procedures they utilized for the Fire House's recently constructed storage building.

The Commission thanked Mr. Handfield and Foster for attending their meeting and discussing their plans for Volunteer Park.

5. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence

SVFCO Chief Maiorano spoke with regards to the upcoming *Trunk or Treat* event. The Fire Company and Deborah Cadwell, who, like last year, will be hosting the event at Witch Meadow Campground, will be sponsoring the event, along with the MOMs Club and Salem School PTO.

The Commission confirmed that they would also like to help sponsor the event. Commissioner Fletcher will act as the Liaison for the Commission. Adult volunteers are currently being sought to help coordinate the children.

He also reported that last year, the SVFCO, the Lions Club, Witch Meadow Campground, and a private couple donated funds for the purchase of gift cards for the Town's children and parents in need through Community Services in Jewett City. He offered the services of the Fire House should the Commission need any help in supporting the children of the town.

The Commissioners thanked SVFCO Chief Maiorano for attending and speaking at their meeting.

6. Recreation Program Coordinator's report: Agnes Miyuki, interim
The following Fall programs will be beginning soon:

FIT4MOMS

Adult Tennis with Anne Santoro

East Lyme and Salem Youth Basketball

Due to time restraints, the instructor who proposed holding the Kids Yoga and Movement Class is no longer available to host the class. As such, Commissioner Fletcher will investigate other options. The possibility of hosting art classes for adults is also being pursued.

The log-in information for the previously created Salem Recreation Facebook page will be investigated in an effort to deactivate that account and avoid confusion.

8. Public Works report: Don Bourdeau – *not present*
9. Unfinished Business
- a. Rec Commission Holiday Events: Review of what is needed for each event particularly Trick or Trunk and the Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Chairperson Natoli reported that Pam Maziarz and the MOMs Club is interested in hosting a craft event. In addition, the MOMs Club is in the process of recruiting the Scouts to donate cookies and treats for the event.
- b. Walktober: Updates on Medallions and Publicity, continue planning the Salem Medallion Project
- The Red House Cultural Arts Center Owners Barry and Kim Ford have designed the Medallion, which will have an image of a footprint. Approximately 25 Medallions will be created and distributed along three of the Town's trails. Next year, the image can be Bicentennial themed and located in historical sites. The Recreation Coordinator will investigate the ability for finders to submit their finding online. Chairperson Natoli will be contacting *The Day* newspaper to help promote the Project.

10. New Business

Commissioner Maziarz and the Recreation Coordinator will be handling the scheduling of Salem School's Multi-purpose Room and Gymnasium for Commissioner Appleby, who is suffering from a torn rotator cuff. First Selectman Lyden added that the Seniors enjoy walking in the School's Gym one weekend morning.

First Selectman Lyden provided a brief overview of the status of the rentals of the baseball fields.

Chairperson Natoli will reach out to Mark Gendron regarding the status of this season's Baseball Calendar.

11. Future/new recreation endeavors: *currently tabled*

a. Ice skating rink

b. Trail maps

Per their discussion last month, the Boy Scout Trail has been cleared and is now walkable.

c. Bike Trail/Greenway

d. Salem Gardening Club

e. Bicentennial Event(s)

f. Walktober

g. Pickle Ball

12. Adjournment

M/S/C: Appleby/Maziarz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem