


**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**


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**The minutes submitted below have been filed in accordance with
Section 1-225 of the CT General Statutes. They are subject to final approval with or
without amendments by a vote of the Recreation Commission.**

Approval and any such amendments will be detailed in subsequent minutes.

PRESENT

Mary Durkee, Chairperson
Deirdre Ahern
Casey Crafton (7:07 p.m.)
Eric McGlone
Agnes Valentini
Steven Wlodarczyk

ABSENT

Debra Delorimiere, Vice Chairperson
Jeff Pugatch

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Durkee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024

**M/S/C: Wlodarczyk/McGlone, to approve the March 18, 2024, Recreation
Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0,
all in favor.**

3. Alterations to the Agenda – none

4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence

Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chairperson Melissa Beers inquired whether the Recreation Commission is interested in continuing its partnership with the Economic Development Commission for the Christmas in July event. This year's event will be held on Saturday, July 13, with a rain date of Sunday, July 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Last year's inaugural event was well-attended and very successful. They are seeking assistance with securing food trucks and entertainment and setting up the event. They will also be seeking additional volunteers for assistance. The EDC will be meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. for their regular meeting to further discuss the event.

Chairperson Durkee expressed their experiences from the previous year. Admittedly, EDC Chairperson Beers stated that some unintentional duties overlapped due to the changeover

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company on Thursday, May 16; Monday, July 30, and; October 16.

8. ARPA Projects

a. Round Hill Road Bathrooms

The Recreation Program Coordinator will be meeting with the Town Planner to discuss the requirements, if any, for the proposed location of the bathrooms.

Cleaners have been hired to conduct a deep cleaning of the existing bathrooms before Baseball's Opening Day event. Once cleaned, the bathrooms will be reviewed for any work that should be conducted. Salem Little League has agreed to clean the bathrooms throughout the baseball/softball season.

b. Trails & Kiosk/Info Center – Emergency Trail Markers, Harris Brook Trail Signage

The initial trail markings along the Multi-Purpose Path/Harris Brook Trail have been completed. Commissioner Ahern will arrange a meeting with Salem School Cross-Country Coach Jessica Fletcher to confirm and discuss possible adjustments to the trail. Following the finalization of the trails and trail markings, Emergency Services will be requested to review the trail and ensure that their locations are satisfactory and a new trail map will be produced for the kiosk. Due to safety concerns as hikers would need to walk alongside Round Hill Road, the proposal to connect the Harris Brook Trail with the Salem Land Trust's Smuggler's Rock Preserve Blue Trail was abandoned. Everyone was encouraged to walk the trails, observe the markings, and provide comments. The trails will be re-reviewed once the vegetation has grown in.

Additionally, a trail connecting an existing trail, located behind the soccer field at Lou Ulffer's Sports Complex, to the Multi-Purpose Path may be proposed.

Chairperson Durkee commended Commissioner Ahern for her hard work and efforts on the trails, to date.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Salem Little League Request for Addition of Baseball/Softball Field

b. The Commission's discussion regarding the request continued. The skinning of the Babe Ruth field, installing holes for the bases, utilizing temporary fencing, making it adaptable for the various teams, was proposed. The public's use of the open (soccer) field and Little League's desire for an additional field for practices were briefly discussed. The Commission was open to Little League investigating the possibility of installing lights at the fields and an estimate of over \$200,000.00 was received. An email was sent to Salem Little League for their thoughts on the skinning the Babe Ruth field. The question of utilizing funds that is beneficial to only a small portion of the community was also raised.

c. Field Use Policy – *in progress; working on disc golf.*

M/S/C: Crafton/Valentini, to allocate an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 to purchase turf for the new beginner tee pads. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

b. Volleyball Clinic

Chairperson Durkee has reached out to the Salem School Volleyball Coach, who is open to hosting a summer Volleyball Clinic for Grades 4 to 7/8. The Clinic will be held for one week in the Salem School Gymnasium in July. The specifics are to be determined. The possibility of hosting Drop-in Volleyball games at the sand volleyball court at the Pavilion was also proposed.

The boundaries for the sand volleyball court will be installed. The volleyball net is experiencing issues and is in the process of being repaired.

c. Earth Day

The Earth Day Scavenger Hunt BINGO Cards will be available on Saturday, April 20. The Town is also hosting an Earth Day Cleanup Day; interested residents are asked to come to Town Hall to sign up, provide the road they will be cleaning, and receive a free roll of trash bags. All participants will be entered to win a free compost bin.

d. Round Hill Road Fields (a.k.a. Lou Ulffer's Sports Complex) Updates

Promotional materials will be posted once the Plexiglas is replaced in the kiosk at the field. The Commissioners were requested to review the Lou Ulffer's Sports Complex signage to determine whether it should be re-painted.

It was noted that the infield on the tee ball field has been filled with grass. Salem Little League has been consulted and a request may be submitted to Public Works to re-install the infield for next season.

The Commissioners also briefly discussed the condition of the batting cage.

Salem Little League Opening Day will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. The event may be moved to the Salem School Gymnasium due to inclement weather.

e. Christmas in July

The Commissioners discussed and agreed to partner with the EDC for the Christmas in July event. The Commission will also be hosting a booth.

f. Ad-Hoc Committee

Commissioner Wlodarczyk volunteered to act as the liaison for the Ad-Hoc Committee.

11. Adjournment

M/S/C: Valentini/McGlone, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem