



**Board of Parks & Recreation
Meeting Minutes**

April 26, 2017

Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become "Public Record" until they are formally approved by the Board of Parks and Recreation at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for May 31, 2017.

Board Attendees: Nancy Caplan, Gary Dell'Abate, Frank DiVincenzo, John Hartwell, Rick Loh, Scott Johnson and Hans Christian Thalheim (by phone)

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Tom Greco, Susan Snyder, and Jeff Freidag

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Guest Attendees: Leslie Yager, Dean Gamanos, and Sue Baker

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. at the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club.
- II. A motion was made by Mr. Dell' Abate seconded by Mr. DiVincenzo to approve the Board Minutes from the March 29, 2017 meeting. 7-0-0

III. Marinas, Boating & Beaches, Jeff Freidag

Marinas

- Hired 2 new Seasonal Dockmasters for this summer.
- All marinas are relatively full; there were 320 vessels stored winter this winter
- Marinas opened on April 15 as scheduled
- Approximately 1400 slips in use, 470 slips, 380 rack spaces, 100 launch permits (30 nonresident), and 50 dry sail vessel permits were issued.
- The due date for slip applications was pushed up this year to try and get a better picture of returning residents so we could offer slips to those residents on the waiting list before they paid for slips elsewhere. We were able to take a few people off the waiting list this year.
- **Cos Cob**: If additional funding is approved, we will bid for the new launching ramp this summer, for construction in the fall/winter. The marina is currently full, the North dock being a favorite of boaters. Three years ago it was empty and there are 17 vessels on the waitlist for slips.
- **Byram**: We are doing some electrical upgrades to the system at the landing float. We have started preliminary design work on a new launching ramp. There are 7 people on the waiting list for 24' slips. We received a favorable dredge permit from the CT DEEP. However due to political reasons, we are, along with other marinas being denied open water placement by New York Department of State. Mr. Freidag advised that if anyone is interested on the whole story, to see him after the meeting.
- **Greenwich Point**: No major improvements this off season at the Point, but we continue to work with users and the OGYC and user groups on improving operations. We have a permit for a new pier, and are in the process of getting a CAM application form in to P+Z. Hopeful summer bid with fall/winter construction.
- **Grass Island**: High school sailing has commenced and boats are starting to uncover from winter storage. We continue to make improvements to storage layout and condition of the facility during both the season and off season including lighting, electrical and water. We are again currently full and we continue to have

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Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2017

a waiting list of 13 for the 20' fingers and waiting list of 107 for the larger slips at the location. Locker building construction has caused some issues but we have been able to find work arounds for them.

- We hope to get funding to explore the possibility of expanding the Grass Island facility in the future.
- We are making minor seawall repairs around the facilities
- We continue to verify and permit Commercial Marine vendors and we currently have 20.

Beaches

- Having no major storms during the off season, the beaches are in decent shape. There will be a need to move and grade existing sand as usual at Byram and Island Beach
- We expect no issues with meeting dates for openings.
- All the swim buoys are ready to go in; they will be placed in the water in late May and early June depending upon the facility opening date.
- We have hired our beach manager and lifeguard supervisor, and they are finalizing the remaining seasonal positions. We have hired all the needed beach crew, ticket booth/, ticket sellers and are working on finding lifeguards. We have currently only received 14 (27) Lifeguard applicants.
- Last summer we had approximately
465,500 visitors to GP
53,000 at Byram
31,000 at IB (Ferry Only)
3,300 at GCI (Ferry only)
- Dredged under the bridges at GP and did some bridge work
- We continue to work with various groups to improve park conditions
- Concessionaires are the same as last year.
- We are still looking into possible solutions for the area between the kayak storage area and the parking lot to deal with run-off, tidal flooding, and road erosion, now that we have established that a DEEP permit is not required. Going to work with P&Z and Conservation to determine what is allowable.
- We have started the permit work for repairs to the causeway between Eagle Pond and the Cove, including guide-rails.
- We will be adding sand to the Byram beach this spring when we grade the beach.

Ferries

- The seasonal staff has been selected and will be ready when the season starts. There will be no new Captains, but a few new crew.
- Two vessels (Indian Harbor 1937 and Island Beach 1961) were hauled at the Bloom shipyard over the winter and are back at the dock. Hulls were painted, zincs replaced and running gear inspected. A few minor repair items were addressed. USCG safety inspections will be conducted later this year prior to starting operations.
- One vessel (ISLANDER II 1948) is still at the shipyard undergoing engine work, should be returned to us next month. It was dry docked and serviced earlier in the season.
- Continue to monitor and work with the TSA/ USCG to ensure proper Homeland Security and safety practices are observed.
- We have started to work with RACE on repairing the ramp headwalls at the Arch ST Ferry dock and in securing a permit to dredge the area the ferries/police/LCM operate from.

Ms. Caplan asked Mr. Freitag about a request from the Old Greenwich Yacht Club for a Pilot House on the dock. Mr. Freitag mentioned that this type of construction is no longer allowed by the state of Connecticut.

Ms. Caplan inquired about the boat club lease agreements. Mr. Siciliano stated that the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club and Old Greenwich Yacht Club leases are up for renewal.

Ms. Caplan advised that a letter went to Peter Tesei from the Old Greenwich Yacht Club inquiring if they can expand their membership to include non-residents (those who left the club and used to live here). Mr. Siciliano stated that this is an administrative issue. Mr. Siciliano stated that in his experience, the clubs are for

residents. Mr. Freidag added that they would have an issue getting into the club due to the Beach Access Policy unless they pay for single entry passes.

Ms. Caplan stated she had been contacted by someone inquiring about why the club's application asked for a sponsor which they felt was prohibitive. Mr. Siciliano replied that it is part of the club by-laws not in the lease, and each club's by-laws can vary.

Mr. DiVincenzo inquired if the membership at one of the boat clubs guarantees a slip. Mr. Siciliano replied, "no". Mr. DiVincenzo stated this may be the problem, people want to have a slip.

Ms. Caplan advised that she was invited to the Friends of Greenwich Point meeting, there was a discussion about dogs on the beach. Ms. Caplan advised she looked up the DEEP guidelines for Hammonasset Park, it doesn't say much. It is different up there. Ms. Caplan reported she contacted Police Chief Heavy to inquire what the rules are for ticketing. Chief Heavy responded that he will speak with the Law Department and get back to her.

Mr. Siciliano added that the Town has a Leash Law, if your dog is off leash, you are eligible for a ticket, it does not matter where in the park you are. The regulations are clear but the enforcement is an issue.

IV. Lia Fail Way, Frank DiVincenzo

Ms. Caplan reported that she was contacted by Peter Berg about the amphitheater on the property of the theater's architect-builder Horton O'Neil. The property has been sold and Sarah Lawrence College is taking most of the amphitheater, there were some marble elements left that Mr. Berg thought the Town could use for benches etc.

Ms. Caplan advised that she asked Mr. DiVincenzo to take the lead on determining whether the Town could use the marble. Ms. Caplan commended Mr. DiVincenzo for taking on the task and doing a great job expeditiously.

Mr. DiVincenzo recalled his past experiences visiting the amphitheater often and speaking with Barbara O'Neil. Mr. DiVincenzo distributed a history (**ATTACHMENT A**) and passed around pictures of the site.

Mr. DiVincenzo advised that he visit the site and the much of the stone was apart. He spoke with the Foreman to obtain a contact whom he spoke with on the cost to save the remaining 6 larger columns. The total price quoted was \$87,000. Mr. DiVincenzo enlisted the help of Bea Crumbine and they spoke with Peter Tesei and Joe Siciliano and discussed ideas on how they may preserve the columns.

Mr. DiVincenzo advised that they were able to enlist the help of A. Vitti who has agreed to donate most of the work to remove the columns and quoted a price of \$2,000. Mr. DiVincenzo met with Mr. Spaman to discuss a storage location; they will be stored at Bruce Park Indian Field Road location.

The removal of the columns has not yet taken place as the site is muddy due to all of the rain. Once the mud subsides, the columns will be removed and stored until a use is determined. How to use them on Town property.

There are a lot of people interested in donating funds for the columns. Donations will be made to the Parks and Recreation Foundation for this purpose.

V. Greenwich Point Master Plan, Tom Greco

Mr. Greco emphasized that this plan is for review and recommendations for improvements to the park. Mr. Greco reported that the Request for Proposal for the Master Plan for Greenwich Point resulted in 7 responses. The team has made a selection; for Stantec. Purchasing has been asked to draft the award and the contract will go through the formal bid acceptance process. The plan will include input from key personnel and the public. The hope is that the Master Plan will begin in late summer.

VI. Byram Pool Project, Joe Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported he toured the site with Alan Monelli. The project is coming along very well. The mild winter helped in getting a significant amount of work done over the winter. While on site, Mr. Siciliano

reported he, Mr. Monelli and members of the Junior League made some decisions on color choices of various elements. The target date to open is Memorial Day 2018.

Ms. Caplan congratulated the department on all their hard work. Mr. Siciliano added Mr. Monelli has done a great job coordinating all the work with the Junior League, Parks and Recreation and the contractors. The Junior League has been active with the fundraising.

VII. Binney Park Master Plan, Joe Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano stated that the money gets approved for dredging in May, he has not heard any negative feedback about the dredging project. Plans are being made to commence the second week in July. DPW has obtained all of the permits needed. The project is in the contractor selection phase; they cannot award a contractor until the funds are approved.

There has been renewed discussion on some donors that want in, Mr. Siciliano stated he is working with these potential donors.

Ms. Caplan advised that she approached the paper about putting together the history of Binney Park. Mr. Siciliano stated Amy Siebert has a timeline that she put together that may be of use. Ms. Caplan added that she put together a spreadsheet from the planting plan provided by Martha Lyon, and sent it to Frank O'Gorman and asked if he could price the plantings so she can sort the funds that have been raised and get some garden clubs to help.

Ms. Caplan added that she's been hearing a lot about the turtles in the pond, so she reached out to Mr. Walsh, the turtle expert at the Bruce Museum. He talked about tracking them the month before. Mr. Siciliano stated that considering the turtles when they dewater the pond is part of the dredging contract.

Ms. Caplan inquired if the Bruce Museum can get involved. Mr. Siciliano replied that she should speak with Amy Siebert.

Mr. Dell'Abate asked how the pond will be dewatered. Mr. Siciliano replied that it is done during a low flow time, July is a good time. They'll build a pumping chamber at the south end of the pond and have several pumps in tandem pumping the water over the dam into the lower section. There are several methods that can be used to dry the material, it will depend on conditions. The pond has a hard bottom; this will allow for an excavator in a stable environment. The pond will refill naturally; the pond will fill up based on the water coming downstream.

Mr. Siciliano suggested the Board send a note to Andy Chapin, the chairman of the RTM P&R Committee and Arlene Lamazo, who is the chairman of the Public Works Committee in support of the dredge project.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports - EGCC, Gary Dell'Abate

Mr. Dell'Abate reported that at the last sub-committee meeting, it was agreed that the committee **would reach out** to facility planners who to make presentations on the need for the Eastern Civic Center site. Mr. Dell'Abate stated he, Mr. Johnson, Darell Demakes, Kirk Schubert, and Randy Caravella had conference calls with two different firms. As facilitators, the firms conduct surveys and talk to people and make suggestions on what they think is needed and what the facility may look like. One of which had mostly worked with sports facilities. The other had more civic center experience with sports elements. Both groups provided a proposal, however the proposals are not a direct comparison as one firm has a proposal from now until the doors open on a new facility and the other proposal is for starters with the option to do more, if needed.

Mr. Dell'Abate suggested it would be a good idea to reach out to a third firm. Mr. Schubert made contact with the firm that built the field house in Norwalk and setup a meeting for next week. Mr. Dell'Abate stated hopefully by the next Board of Parks and Recreation meeting there will be three comparable proposals. Mr. Siciliano stated if this route is taken, there will be a public RFP process for selection.

Mr. Johnson stated he was most impressed with an analysis of the operational costs and expenses.

Upon further discussion, Mr. Dell'Abate stated the discussion is moving along.

IX. Sub-Committee Reports - Dogs at Greenwich Point-Gary Dell'Abate

Mr. Dell'Abate discussed the article from the Greenwich Free Press about a new nonprofit group that will hold a "Spring Spruce up" at the Grass Island dog park. Mr. Siciliano added the group is going to do some clean up and plantings. The article goes on to talk about the dog issues at Greenwich Point.

Mr. Dell'Abate stated he's been contacted by several people in favor of the dog extension inquiring what will be done. He's made them aware that there are complaints about the dogs. They need to tell their story; they are working on getting organized.

Mr. Siciliano added that this winter season there was a lot of interest in dogs, especially complaints that dog owners were not being sensitive to other park users, commercial dog operations in public parks, etc. Mr. Siciliano stated that he advised one of the principal people in favor of the dog season extension that the situation did not get better since the last conversation last fall, it actually got worse. The dog groups are not doing anything to help their cause as the situation has gotten worse.

Mr. Dell'Abate added that the issues with dogs down at the Point needs to be addressed before consideration can be given to extending the dog season. Mr. Siciliano added that the dog promoters missed an opportunity to set standards and get people on board with the rules this winter, instead the issues escalated. There is a real big issue at Mianus River Park with commercial dog walkers. Overall enforcement is a real issue.

Mr. Hartwell added there are other regulatory agencies that should be involved like the Police Department, the Health Department. Mr. Siciliano further added that the Board of Selectmen would have to change the regulation about the dates if there were to be an extension. There is going to be a significant discussion between those in favor of dogs and those who oppose.

X. Director's Report, Joe Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported that the department is in full swing with everything; boating, beaches, park passes, preparation of facilities, camp registrations, etc. The rain hasn't helped with field issues. Members of the staff have been working with the GHS Athletic Director on a Memorandum of Understanding for field use next season as a result of the delayed school openings---waiting for finalization. Working on some pending law suits. Engaged in working on the budget. When the budget gets past, will work to prioritize implementation of some projects that will be funded as of July 1. Active in monitoring the current appropriations for capital improvements and the timing and execution of those projects.

XI. Chairman's Report, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan thanked members of the Board for their work on various committees. Ms. Caplan inquired if there is anything the Board/department can do regarding the Hamilton Ave. School field. Mr. Siciliano stated there was an article in the paper with a petition. The improvement project to the Hamilton Ave. School field is being incorporated in the Board of Education's capital budget. The department cannot do any work other than general maintenance. We are painting the fence and overseeding the field. The items that intertwine with the capital project will require capital money. One of the major complaints was the ponding on the field, this is as a result of the undulations in the field.

Mr. Siciliano stated he visited the site, there are a couple of infield issues that need some attention in the clay areas that he will have the staff address. There is not a high impact schedule for this field because of the current elevations and conditions, thus attention has been redirected to other fields in high use.

Mr. Hartwell reported that he walked the field there are conflicting signs regarding dogs and something in the corner was knocked over.

Mr. Siciliano agrees that the field needs improvements, asked Mr. Hartwell to provide a list. The items that will be addressed in the capital project can be identified, if there are some other maintenance items that can be addressed, the department will.

XII. Sub-Committee Reports-Dorothy Hamill Skating Rink, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh reported the subcommittee met this morning. They had a good general discussion. They learned that the cost to rent a temporary rink is \$500k/year, there may be a discount if a commitment is made for three years. The user groups provided updated numbers on how many hours of ice time they've purchased at other rinks, the amount is quite significant.

Ms. Snyder added that even though many user groups purchased ice time at other rinks, Hamill did have some unsold time, but because the time slots were early morning and Hamill does not have shower facilities it cannot be rented without the ability to shower that early in the morning. Another issue discussed were questions concerning what can be done going forward, what is possible for the current rink location. These questions will be discussed with Planning and Zoning relatively soon.

XIII. Harbor Management, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that he has spoken to Chairman, Bruce Angiolillo. According to Mr. Angiolillo, things have begun to happen rather quickly. Mr. Johnson reported he met with the DEEP and Lile Gibbons early in the month and they have conceptually agreed on the items they had previously disagreed on. The Board of Selectmen is the reviewing body for decisions of the Harbor Management Commission as it relates to special acts. There have previously been some jurisdictional disagreements with the Harbormaster. Now that these items have been agreed upon, the report is being re-drafted and will be forwarded to the State of Connecticut, it will then be reviewed with the Board of Selectmen and then circulated to the RTM P&R Committee for review before the final report is sent to the state. The goal is to get final RTM approval by Labor Day.

Mr. Johnson suggested the Commission make a presentation to the Board and provide an opportunity for questions. He agreed with Ms. Caplan to put this on the agenda for June.

XIV. Sub-Committee Reports – Fields, Susan Snyder

Ms. Snyder reported the committee reviewed field requests from some new groups, only one was approved. The committee discussed updated registration lists and reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding for the high school. Byram picnic field has been renovated for use by some younger children.

XV. Unfinished Business

none

XVI. New Business

none

XVII. Public Comments

none

XVIII. Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

State Register of Historic Places Nomination (1993, excerpts)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
 For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	UTM: 18/		SITE NO.:
QUAD:	/		/
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 1934-1937

The O'Neil Outdoor Theatre is significant for its uniqueness, design, and execution, as well as the personalities involved in its genesis. It is the only one of its kind in the Town of Greenwich and possibly the only one in southwestern Connecticut. Set into a hillside, it resembles ancient Greek prototypes although the 115 degree arc of the seating area is less than these models, which generally measure 180 degrees or more. The Celtic elements were inspired by the Irish ancestry of Horton O'Neil, the architect and builder of the theatre. His inspiration for the stage's Celtic swirl design was that of a pool in a forest, a design that generated movement around a still center. The monolithic Druid stones surrounding the stage and seating show additional Celtic influence and provide a vertical accent to the design and minimalist screen for the stage.

The construction of the theatre also approximated Greek methods because it was built without heavy equipment or modern materials, except for the slab under the stage's pavement which utilized ready-mix concrete. A pin in the center of the stage acted as a compass to determine every concentric line of the seating area, while every swirl line was determined by its own center. Most of the marble came from three quarries: Wingdale, New York and Manchester and Danby, Vermont. The rose-colored Tennessee marble of the pit and stage was acquired already cut from a stoneyard in Brooklyn, New York, while the marble slabs forming the pit's parapet were milled for Arlington Cemetery tombstones but were rejected for not meeting G.I. standards. Only four workers were hired for the theatre's construction including two stonecutters, Louis and Joseph Gentile, who were born in Italy and worked on the Supreme Court Building and various state capital buildings across country. During the construction, the acoustics were checked by two musicians: guitarist, David O'Neil, the architect's father and owner of the property; and flutist Quinto Maganini, who would later utilize the theatre as a conductor to rehearse the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. The acoustics from the stage are excellent and the curvature of the pit permits a whisper at one end to be heard perfectly at the opposite end. The theatre has been used intermittently through the years for various events: plays, dance recitals, chamber music programs, and even poetry readings by the elder O'Neil. From 1949 to 1959 it was used by the Greenwich Academy's Dance Department. Their first presentation was "Midsummer Night's Dream"; one of the fairies in the fairy dance was Jane Fonda.

The initial idea for the theatre was spawned in the mind of

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