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 27, 2015.

Board Attendees: Nancy Caplan, Cathy Weisenburger, Patrick Slyne, Hans Christian Thalheim, Frank Cantelmo, John Hartwell and Rick Loh

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Tom Greco, Jeff Freidag, Sue Snyder, and Lou Berlingo

Guest Attendees: Nancy Chapin and Leslie Yager

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room.

II. Ms. Caplan thanked Ms. Weisenburger for covering for the last two meetings while she was out.

III. A motion was made by Mr. Slyne seconded by Mr. Thalheim to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting; 6-0-0.

IV. Marinas, Boating, and Beaches, Jeff Freidag

Mr. Freidag reported the following:

Marinas

- We had 325 vessels stored winter this winter.
- Marinas opened on April 15 as planned, and all our dockmasters are returning from last year.
- 2014 approximately 1000 use permits, 485 slips, 346 rack spaces, 106 launch permits, and 51 dry sail vessels.
- We posted 3 vessels over the winter for past due payment, and have filed one as abandon with the DEEP.
- Cos Cob: The DEEP has the application for the new launching ramp, and once it is approved we will start the design phase. There are 54 vessels on the waitlist for slips there.
- Byram: Continued our finger pier upgrade with 21 new finger slips built and installed. Old pilings were removed as was the old cable system. We have rented 29 of the 42 new slips, and hope to see this number increase as the warm weather arrives. There is currently no waitlist for Byram. In conjunction with the Boat club we replaced the old fence along the road. We also improved the lighting at the yard, and added a power post and light to the landing dock.
- Greenwich Point: No major improvements this off season at the Point, but we continue to work with users and the OGYC on improving operations.
- 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 a waiting list of 44 for the 20’ fingers and waiting list of 86 for the larger slips at the location.
- We continue to verify and permit Commercial Marine vendors and we currently have 19.
• Just this week we received our Waterfront Facilities Planning Report that we developed with RACE. This included site investigations, vessel berthing assessments, and hydrographic surveys for all five facilities. This can be used as a planning document to assess future facility needs such as additional vessel berthing, dredging, dock layout optimization and overall improvement.

• Ms. Caplan asked that he come back to the board at the end of the summer highlighting the key issues and recommendations for the Greenwich marine areas.

Beaches

• Having no major storms this off season the beaches are in decent shape. There will be sand to be moved and graded as usual.
• We will be getting additional sand for Byram starting May 11. This will be placed between the Rosenwald beach and the main beach for easier access to the Rosenwald beach and to top dress the main beach.
• We expect no issues with meeting dates for openings.
• All the swim buoys are ready to go in; they will be placed 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.
• All seasonal water has been turned back on; the weather has been an issue.
• Last summer he had approximately
  540,000 visitors to GP
  56,000 at Byram
  36,000 at IB
  3,300 at GCI (ferry service only) Well still impacting the number of visitors
• We will again be having a temporary first aid/lifeguard trailer at GP.
• With the pool closed we will be utilizing space in the existing locker/concession building for a first aid location.
• We continue to work with various groups to improve park conditions

Ferries

• Currently all three vessels were hauled at the Bloom shipyard off season. Hulls were painted, zinscs replaced and running gear inspected. The winter did affect our time line, but we don’t foresee any problem being ready on time.
  • ISLANDER II 1948(returned)
    1. USCG Dry dock inspection
    2. Hull plating was cropped and renewed as specified by the USCG
    3. Bildge piping was reworked per USCG
    4. New head door was fabricated
    5. All passenger seating was removed and replaced
  • INDIAN HARBOR 1937(at Yard)
    1. Shafts pulled per USCG
    2. Cutlass bearings replaced
    3. Oil pumps upgraded
    4. Areas of the decks ground and inspected
  • ISLAND BEACH 1961
    1. 12 VOLT system upgraded to a 24 VOLT
• USCG in water safety inspections will take place in May.
- We will continue to monitor and work with the TSA/USCG to ensure proper Homeland Security practices are observed.
- Seasonal personnel are being hired with a majority of them returning from last year.

**IV. Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**
Mr. Siciliano introduced Lou Berlingo who will be the acting Operations Manager for the Golf Course for the 2015 season. Rick Massi will also assume a broader range of responsibilities. Mr. Siciliano reported that during this season he will be taking a look at how the Golf Course can be restructured and plan for the future.

Mr. Berlingo reported that he is working on a marketing plan which includes twilight rates (the time slots are filling), incentives for new members, bad weather incentives, as well as other opportunities.

Mr. Siciliano added he's looking into the possibility for the Golf Course to have a web page separate from the Town's site.

Mr. Siciliano advised that there will be a Golf User Group Meeting scheduled in the next several weeks.

Mr. Slyne indicated that there is a group of people interested in advertising the Griff in Westchester County. Mr. Siciliano replied that the group wanted to advertise other courses at the Griff; he is not interested in promoting other courses to our golfers.

Mr. Berlingo stated he's been in contact with the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of an after work league.

Mr. Siciliano reported that the Greenwich common project is in full swing and the contractor is making great progress, the hope is that the project will be completed by July 1st. Mr. Siciliano stated there is interest in getting Wi-Fi access to the site.

Mr. Siciliano acknowledged that the new Cos Cob Park has been overwhelmingly successful – received some concerns about doggie bags, signage but the park is widely used. The athletic field has been a big complement provides flexibility in scheduling during inclement weather. The 9/11 memorial has all received all approvals, project to commence in the middle of the summer.

Mr. Siciliano stated the Binney Park Master Plan meeting with Martha Lyon was very constructive. The attendees broke out into work groups, people were engaged in the conversation, and there were many common themes amongst the groups. Martha is working on compiling the results. The 150K for the budget to be approved by the RTM to tackle some of the issues.

Mr. Siciliano reported that there are RTM Committee meetings next week regarding the operating budget for which Parks and Recreation has an increase of 1.9%, do not foresee any issues.

As a result of the soil remediation project, the Byram pool will be closed for the 2015 beach season. The funding for the soil remediation will be appropriated on July 1, 2015. The remediation project will take place during the summer months.

Mr. Siciliano added he has been working to provide information on the background of the planning for the Byram Pool, permits and design. Also provided information on an estimated budget of current expenditures and anticipated budget for the current design, ways to generate revenue, and a beach policy for access. The Town attorney is preparing a legal opinion on pool access. The Junior League has committed a pledge of $2.5M towards the project.

Mr. Siciliano advised the department is in full swing of the spring/summer programming.

Mr. Siciliano reported that there has been an uptick in usage of the online park pass renewal system. Renewing your Park Pass online is the best method; the turn-around time is much quicker than in person renewals.

Mr. Greco added that the department is expanding use of credit cards to the civic centers.

Nancy Caplan inquired if the department will move towards online registrations for other offerings.
Mr. Siciliano responded that in other communities there have been some issues of people manipulating the process for online registration; there needs to be a fair and equitable online vs. in person registration process.

VI. Chairman’s Report, Nancy Caplan
Ms. Caplan inquired about the funding for the assessment for artificial turf fields at the middle schools. Mr. Siciliano replied that there is $40,000 in the budget to be approved by the RTM. The funds are in the budget to assess the feasibility of artificial turf at the 3 middle schools. Malone and McBroom are on contract with the Town for the survey work, once funds are approved the department will engage with the contractor.

Ms. Caplan stated she would like to reconvene on prioritizing capital projects for Board Members to champion.

Mr. Loh stated the Harbor Management Commission has been making slow progress.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business
Mr. Thalheim inquired if there was a subcommittee that he can work with. Ms. Caplan replied that sub committees are formed to work on issues such as the Field Committee and the Long Rand Budget Committee. Although we don’t have standing committees, we do have liaisons to other boards and commissions such as Conservation Commission, Wetlands, and Board of Education. We do establish sub committees as issues are identified but most of the sub committees meet during town business hours. Ms. Caplan mentioned that most Mr. Thalheim identify his interests and possibly form a committee to cover a specific issue that needs resolution. Mr. Siciliano suggested there may be an opportunity with the Open Space Plan.

Mr. Thalheim asked if there is a way to adjust the tennis court lights to be on at night only when people have a reservation. Mr. Siciliano stated the systems are on an antiquated timer. Mr. Siciliano stated other options can be considered for Byram during the improvement project.

Ms. Snyder reported even though passes and reservations are required for tennis, residents do have some flexibility to use the courts when they are not scheduled and if lighting weren’t available resident pass holders would lose this privilege.

Mr. Thalheim inquired if it was possible to publish a schedule of available fields.

Mr. Siciliano replied the department does not want to do that because the fields will be abused and groups will circumvent the system. An important factor would be for the groups that have a field permit and do not use it, that they notify the department so the field can be permitted for another group.

IX. Public Comments
Ms. Nancy Chapin reported that the Open Space Plan was deferred by the RTM. Ms. Chapin inquired about who should own the responsibility of open space management. Mr. Siciliano replied that both Conservation and Parks and Recreation have a charter responsibility.

Ms. Weisenburger reported that she and Ms. Chapin walked the Pinetum and made a list of maintenance items that required attention. Ms. Weisenburger suggested reviving the maintenance list. Mr. Siciliano suggested putting together a matrix and have a facilitator who works with the department to move the items along.

X. Meeting adjourned 8:26 pm.