

Branford Board of Recreation
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2020

Members present: Zoom meeting due to COVID-19

Paul Criscuolo, Chairman

Deborah Conklin

Jeanne Crowley

Helen 'Bimmie' Herget

Bill O'Brien (signed on to meeting at 7:33pm)

Staff Present:

Alex Palluzzi, Jr

Dale Izzo

Guest:

Wayne Cooke

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo.

II. Approval of meeting minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 10, 2020 meeting minutes

1st: Deborah Conklin 2nd: Jeanne Crowley passed 4-0

III. Correspondence

A letter from the Garden Club was read and letters from residents about the successful opening of Hospice Pool and Branford Point Beach.

IV. Public Comment

Wayne Cooke voice his concerns about Tabor Drive and how it was given away for hiking trails. He stated that it should have been developed for playing fields. There are citizens looking into this and it will be addresses at the RTM level. He also spoke about the dishonest approach about building the community house. He wanted to go public to say that the process was dishonest and was built without following the proper process.

V. Directors Report

Alex provided an update about staffing due to Coronavirus COVID 19, we continue to take precautions cleaning the building and wiping surfaces. We have opened the playgrounds with much signage. Baseball and softball have begun playing with coaches and board members having to follow strict guidelines. Currently we are trying to move forward with opening up for those higher risk sports. (basketball, lacrosse, football, etc.)

- All Branford beach were closed as of July 8th due to the sewage leak from the New Haven Plant. East Shore Health will continue to test and notify us when it is safe to reopen.

- Community House: there are 14 items on the list to get resolved before the final CO can be issued. The top patio has been repaired and completed. There are a few issues with the generator. All the remaining issues are on the contractor. We have been addressing some settling in the parking lot with the paver. We are looking into irrigation for the gardens around the CH. GGB has been great with helping with our building.
- Veteran's Park: We are doing the basketball courts. The old backboard concrete poles have been dug out and will also be replaced.
- Parker Park: major improvements have been done to the stone walk way and the parking lot. We are looking into handicap matting for the beach at Parker Park.
- Hammer Field: The basketball court will be resurfaced and relined. We will also be installing playground matting for the playground at Hammer Field.
- Foote Park: the restroom construction is almost complete. They are hooking up the sinks toilets and hardware this week.
- Due to COVID we have refund \$116,500 of program fees because of cancellations of programs and activities.
- The tennis courts are Foote Parks and Veteran's Park have been opened. The BOE has also opened their tennis courts, BHS Track and baseball fields.

VI. Assistant Directors Report

Dale gave a detailed report about registrations and cancellations due to the effects of COVID-19. The staff has created a social/physical summer camp experience workbook. They will be visiting the campers weekly. Staff participate as well by sending weekly photos, letters and other surprise. The response has been well received so far. We will be hosting a drive in movie at BHS parking on July 15th. This event is almost sold out. We have started holding some Aquacise classes at Hospice Pool.

- VII. Old Business:** Chairman Paul stated that the wind boards/paddleboards items should be removed from the agenda as he never received a response back. The Bocce courts at Branford Point/Parker Park have been repaired and are currently closed due to COVID-19.

VIII. New Business

Alex explained the Green Bank Solar Carport Project to be possibly built at the Community House. Alex gave an explanation for the concept to the board. It should save the CH on electricity over the next 20 years. The First Selectman would be providing more information to the board at the August meeting. This solar carport could be usefully as well to park our vehicles under this during inclement weather.

Next meeting: August 12, 2020

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:23pm

1st Deborah Conklin 2nd Jeanne Crowley – Passed 5-0

Submitted by: Dale B Izzo