

**Branford Board of Recreation**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2021**

**Members present: Zoom meeting due to COVID-19**

Paul Criscuolo, Chairman

Deborah Conklin

Jeanne Crowley

Helen "Bimmie" Herget

Bill O'Brien joined the meeting at 7:07pm

**Staff Present:**

Alex Palluzzi, Jr.

Dale Izzo

**Guest:** Richard Shanahan 5 Shore Drive, Branford Trails

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo.

A motion was made to accept the monthly meeting minutes from March 2021

1<sup>st</sup>: Jeanne Crowley                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Deb Conklin                      passed 4-0

- II. Correspondences:** Our department received many verbal responses from parents about the positive way in which the staff of the football clinic and the full time parks and recreation staff handled the emergency that occurred on April 13-2021. The staff did an amazing job with getting the participants to safety.

**III. Directors Report**

- **Community House:** The generator enclosure is almost complete. GGB is replacing all the filters in the units on the roof. All contracts for equipment for the building are in place through GGB: fire, security alarm, elevator, generator, etc. We are working with IT to see about increasing the cell service. The patio out front is still chipping. Contractors will be coming back.
- **Parks/Grounds/Facilities:** We have begun to seed the fields. Opening day for baseball is Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>. A discussion was held about holding a formal Opening Day for baseball and the board felt that they should not hold one and do something less formal at each game.
- **Veteran's Park:** The lighting project: The building inspector has been meeting with contractors as the first one has backed out. New wiring needs to be put in throughout the whole park.
- **Foot Park:** A lot activity is being to take place. Bathrooms have been officially opened. Plantings in front of the tennis courts will be going in. Tennis Courts and pickleball courts are open. The clay courts are still being worked on. The geese are under control and we are working to educate folks about not bring dogs to the park. We have security guards working to remind folks.

- Parker Park: Beach will be opening Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. The dock will be shut down around May 1<sup>st</sup> for about 4 months.
- COVID-19: Many changes with guidelines are being taken into consideration. Mask and social distancing continue to be required.

**IV. Assistant Directors Report**

Dale gave an overview of the upcoming programs, Hospice Pool Memberships and special events. The staff continues to research ideas about summer programs and focusing on camps for essential childcare. Camp registration will begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dale explained how camp will run to date under the current COVID guidelines.

**V. Old Business:** The budget was endorsed by the Board of Finance. We are waiting to see when we have to present to the sub-committee. Alex asked all board members to be present for this presentation.

**VI. New Business:** The Greenway Trail/Branford Trails. Richard Shanahan gave an overview of the Greenway Status and The Branford Trail which spans 30 miles. We are looking to increase parking lot access, kiosks and educate the public of what the Branford Trail is and the difference between the trail and the greenway trails. The Branford Trail is sponsored by DEEP who is in charge of this program which would make sure we meet the criteria. This is not a project, as there is no construction associated with it, but need an organization to be associated with it as a sponsor so that the trail can be recognized by the state. The Board asked Richard to write a letter that states clearly what he is looking for from our board specifically. The trail is part of the CT Greenway system that identifies properties/trails for open space trails for foot traffic and mountain bikes.

**Next meeting:** May 12, 2021

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:31pm

1<sup>st</sup> Deborah Conklin

2<sup>nd</sup> Jeanne Crowley— Passed 5-0

Submitted by: Dale B Izzo