

**Branford Board of Recreation  
Joe Trapasso Community Center  
Special Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2025**

**Board Members:**

- √- Paul Criscuolo, Chairman
- √- Helen "Bimmie" Herget, Clerk, **\*arrived at 7:27 pm**
- √- Jeanne Crowley
- √ - Nancy Drevins
- William O'Brien- excused

**Staff:**

- √- Dale Izzo, Director

**Guest:**

**I. Call to order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm, by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo.

A Motion was made to approve the January Minutes from 3/12/2025

1<sup>st</sup>: Jeanne Crowley      2<sup>nd</sup>: Nancy Drevins      Motion passed 3 -0

**II. Correspondences:** none

**III. Public Comments:** none

**IV. Directors Report:**

**Community House:**

The patio furniture in the front of the building has been delivered and set up. We also have green umbrellas that haven't gone up yet.

Dagmar's bench has been ordered and the plaque is being worked on.

We have hired a part-time cook. We did a team building exercise and he made omelets. We are anticipating starting having breakfasts in May, see how that goes and work towards lunches.

We have hired a Case Worker who's focus will be on Families, Energy Assistance, Social Services and Housing. They will work closely with the Branford Counseling Center Case Managers and the Social Worker assigned to the PD.

We have an intern working for us from Albertus Magnus. She is looking at brochures that we have and making some changes to have them updated.

**Activities, Programs & Special Events:**

We had our first ever Pool Easter Egg Float which went great. Our Easter Egg Hunt is taking place Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

The You've Been Egg program was a huge hit with ages from 1-100.

Shoreline Theatre auditions for Rent are taken place next week.

All of our Summer Playground Camps are full with extensive waiting lists. We have partnered with Victory Sports and The Board of Education to have another camp at Patty's Park with the use of Murphy School.

**Parks, Grounds and Facilities:**

We were able to get a Neglected Cemetery Grant for \$8,000.00. All the fields are being prepped and groomed. The Porta Potties have begun to be placed in the parks for the season.

**Hammer Field:** The DEEP grant in the amount of \$76,000.00 has been received. These funds were allocated to finish off the Hammer Field Playground.

**Veteran's Park:** The old playground has been dismantled. Thank you to Public Works for their assistance and the new playground should be completed soon. The pickleball courts are up and running.

**Foot Park:** We are looking into planting some new trees. We are working with Public Works to do this on Arbor Day and Davey Trees will be planting a tree on Earth Day. Dale as invited the preschool classes from Indian Neck School to be a part of this event. The hard tennis courts are all set and we are on track for getting the clay courts opened by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Bocce Courts:** The Bocce Courts at Hammer Field are almost complete. Thank you Gary, Public Works and Nate Fraulick and the Boy Scouts for your hard work. We are awaiting 2 benches on order, which have donated by the Lions Club and the Rotary. We hope to have a ceremony with the Nate as he earns his Eagle Scout to open them at the beginning of May.

**Parker Park:** We have begun work at Parker Park as Jim started back Mar 31<sup>st</sup>. A replacement truck requested in the 2026 FY budget.

**V. Old Business:**

**Budget FY2026:** The Budgets for both Park & Recreation and Elderly Services were presented to the board and then will be presented to the subcommittees.

**Staffing:** We have hired a new Assistant Director for Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services. She will be starting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is very familiar with the department and we believe is the perfect fit.

**Facility & Field Policy:** Joe Mooney let us know that Stony Creek Fife and Drum rescinded their request for use of Hammer Field for their Muster. They are taking a step back this year because of everything moving from the Green and the Festival taking place at Hammer Field.

**VII. New Business:** none

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at was made at 8:03 pm

1<sup>st</sup>: Nancy Drevins 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bimmie Herget Motion passed 3 -0

Respectfully submitted by: Kelly Gesuero