

**Branford Board of Recreation
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018**

Members Present:

Paul Criscuolo~ Chairman
Deborah Conklin
Jeanne Crowley
Bill O'Brien
Bimmie Herget

Staff Present:

Alex Palluzzi, Jr.
Dale Izzo

Guest Present:

First Selectman, James B Cosgrove
Members of the Joe Trapasso Family
Greg Robinson
Mike Tamsin

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo

II. Approval of meeting minutes/ Special Meeting minutes

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from 5-13-19

1st: Bimmie Herget 2nd: Deborah Conklin passed 5-0

III. Correspondence: Paul Criscuolo read a letter from Tomas Brockett regarding the naming of the current Branford Community House as it related to the Veterans World War II and the memorial get put back in place at the Community House. Alex shared a correspondence from Greg Robinson about a petition to name the current Community House after Joe Trapasso and he gave history about Joe and what he meant to the Community of Branford. Over 750 folks signed the petition.

A motion was made to move the agenda item under old business Community House Naming next on the agenda.

1st: Bill O'Brien 2nd: Bimmie Herget passed 5-0

IV. Public Comment: Only comments from the public were from the discussion around the naming of the community house.

V. Directors Report:

- **Foote Park:** The bathrooms will be renovated and we are waiting for the design. Foote Park is really being used.
- **Community House:** Selectman Cosgrove gave an overview of the project. Things are progressing along and we are finalizing with the builder a date of turning the building back to the town.
- **Other Facilities:** The Hospice Pool has been uncovered and getting ready for opening day. Bayview Park fencing is being replaced. All fields have been fertilized. The Branford Hills irrigation and electricity is going in. The

installation of the new playground will begin next week. Parker Park bath house is going to be redone. There is a lot of tree work that needs to be done. We have a replacement plan for trees that are taken down. Thanks to PW for their assistance. The Parker Park Commission has requested that the road get paved in the near future. New glass basketball backs are being installed at Veteran's Memorial Park. Key Bank will be coming on May 14th to beautify the park by doing some plantings and cleaning up some of the gardens.

- **Budget/Personnel:** The budget meeting is next Tuesday, May 14th at 8Pm at Branford Fire Headquarters. The new staff is doing a great job with all the field maintenance.

VI. **Assistant Directors Report:**

Dale gave a detailed report about the activities and programs that have been taking place and that the department is getting ready for all the summer programs, especially camps. She gave an over view of the Branford375 and the upcoming events. The department rolled out a new website and software which has been well received by the public and the staff.

Upcoming events and Activities:

- Skyhoundz Dog Frisbee: May 11th
- Summer Registration: June 6th
- Branford Festival: June 14, 15,& 16
- Annual Fireworks Display: June 22nd with a rain date of June 23rd
- Branford Jazz Summer Concert Series begins June 27th
- Summer Theater Camp: June 24-July 19th Show dates July 15th-18th
- Adult Theater: The Producers Show dates: June 27 & 28
- Hospice Pool/Branford Point Open for the season: May 25th

VII. **Old Business:**

1. Community House Naming:

A motion was made to name the renovated Community House the "Joe Trapasso Community House honoring the WWII Veteran's.

1st: Deborah Conklin 2nd: Bill O'Brien passed 5-0

A discuss was heard from the public, Mike Tamsin spoke and did so with no disrespect to the Trapasso Family. He read the names of the veteran's that had died while in serve. Their names are on a plaque at Sliney School. His point was stated that he thinks that the building should not be named after anyone.

A member of the Trapasso family spoke about the background of Joe and about naming the building and they never would want to dishonor the veteran's.

Their dad was very proud of the Veterans and he himself was a WWII veteran.

They stated that the name proposed brings more attention to the Veterans.

The question came up; Does the Board of Recreation have the authority to name the building? It was stated, in the Town charter, it states that the board has jurisdiction over the buildings. Greg stated that there has not been one

negative comment on the petition. Selectman Cosgrove made comments about the history of the Veterans Memorial and what impact Joe Trapasso had on the community in terms of Recreation for all ages. Mike Tamsin suggested that we seek input from the Veterans. Alex shared information from publications that were published when they dedicated the memorial. The Veterans only wanted to have a memoriam at the community house. Chairman Paul thanked everyone for their comments and asked for a vote.

2. **2019-2020 Budget:** There is a meeting next week to about the budget at the RTM level.

VIII. New Business: None

Next Meeting:

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:17 PM

1st: Bimmie Herget 2nd: Bill O'Brien passed 5-0