

Meeting #133

A meeting of the Young Park Commission was held Tuesday May 28, 2019 at the offices of the Pine Orchard Association.

Present:

Commissioners-
Geoff Hotz- Chairman
Paul Blackstone
Rich Rosen, Secretary

Dale Welsh- Park Warden

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The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

The minutes from the February 5, 2019 meeting were discussed. Rich Rosen made a motion to approve. Paul seconded. All were in favor.

Warden Report:

Park warden Dale Welsh's report was discussed. The Tri-State Bike Ride for ALS research will take place on 6/22/19 with a rest station at the park for the riders. Last year the organizers were meticulous in terms of clean-up and sent a thank you letter. We will ask them to leash all dogs during the race. They provided a certificate of insurance to Ken Graham who forwarded it to Geoff Hotz. Dog Frisbee and the approximate monthly star gazing are taking place as well. The star gazing organizers were concerned about the LAX fences. Geoff discussed it with them- affecting April and May, 2019 dates. The Cottonwood tree in the middle of the grass area has been fertilized. The trails are in good shape. The commission has received compliments as to the newly cleared areas around the pond allowing for easier pond viewings. Thank you, Dale for the report and all of the work that you do.

Financial Report:

Future costs include dog bags and some maintenance to various trees. Capital items are included. Rich made a motion to transfer from "other Supplies" (\$249.59) to "Purchase Service and Maintenance". Paul seconded. For the fiscal year 2019 our budget is being absorbed into the Branford Recreation Department's budget.

Old Business:

The North end has been trimmed more regularly and the brush has been pushed back. In Mirror Lake the tree in the pond was removed by a neighbor to the pond. Some other tree and brush removal as well. Discussion of future dredging at the south end. In Young Park ongoing projects include clearing around some of the foundations, maintenance of the trails, etc., clearing some trees in the pond as well as the hill before the bridge by Branford Public Works. The Recreation Department worked on the fields

to prepare for LAX. Geoff will ask Alex Palluzzi for added trail maintenance with a request for a once per month cut with a brush saw or mower. We'd also like some gravel addition to the bank near the bridge. In addition, Public Works will be asked to work on the curb line and the main stone wall by the road. A trash can door needs repair. Geoff will try to fix. Alex will assist Geoff with some boundary markings and some identifiers to help people navigate the various trails.

New Business:

Discussion of the Branford Youth LAX use of much of the lower field from March-mid-June, 2019. Changes included fencing in 3 LAX fields. These fences will be removed in June, 2019. The fencing was paid for by the approximately 140 families who are members of Branford Youth LAX. Last fall the fields for LAX were aerated while this spring they were overseeded.

Mr. Shelton will pay for the Mirror Lake treatment while Geoff and Paul will apply it. We are working on securing more benches but haven't heard back from the POA. Commission agreed that Dale will make a sign saying, "Personal items left at the park may be removed" due to many chairs left at times.

Dredging the main pond- The commission will start with approaching Inland Wetlands. It needs to be determined how deep before gravel is hit. Mirror Lake could possibly be done at the same time. Discussions ensued as to a 10 year and a 25 year plan. Dyes could be used to stop some sunlight and kill some weeds. An herbicide would still be required for top weeds. Discussion to be continued.

Seth Chaucer is resigning from the commission. Thank you for all of your help, Seth. We will need a new commissioner.

Next Meeting:

September 17, 2019 Tuesday at the Pine Orchard Association offices at 180 Pine Orchard Road, Branford, CT 06405 commencing at 7:30 PM.

Geoff made a motion to adjourn and Rich seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Rich Rosen, Secretary

May 28, 2019