

**Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Rescheduled Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2018
MINUTES
*Approved as printed at the April 12, 2018 Meeting***

Commissioners Present: Chairman David Fleig, Vice Chairman Jason Lonergan and Secretary Mary Alice Hughes
Staff present: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order
Chairman Fleig called the Meeting to order at 7:32 PM.
2. Introduction of any newly appointed New Members
Chairman Fleig informed the members that he hopes there will soon be a fourth commissioner appointed by the Board of Selectmen. He is looking for and open to suggestions regarding possible applicants for the fifth commissioner to fill out the commission's membership.
3. Approval of Minutes of the November 9, 2017 Meeting
Ms. Hughes made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Lonergan to approve the November 9, 2017 Minutes as printed. The Motion was approved unanimously.
4. General Review of current budget financial reports (through 01/2018)
Financial reports for December 2017, "Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance, General Fund, July 2017 to June 2018, dated 01/11/2018" and "Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance, Capital Non-Recurring, July 2017 to June 2018, dated 01/11/2018", were distributed to the commissioners. Chairman Fleig noted that the financial reports showed there is a reasonable amount left in the maintenance lines for the routine Spring 2018 projects and there should not be any needed activity in those lines for the next few Winter months.

The current "Expanding Recreation Opportunities" line reflects the Family Fun Night activities (discussed below in 6a.).

The Capital Non-Recurring funding is further discussed below (in 6b.).
5. Review and Approval of the 2018 Meetings Schedule
When asked, the commissioners all agreed that they would like to keep their meetings' start time at 7:30, making it easier to complete family evening activities before coming to the meetings. They found the dates on the tentative 2018 Meetings Schedule acceptable, although they noted that emergency or other last-minute changes would be addressed as they occur.
Ms. Hughes made the Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Lonergan to approve the 2018 HP&R Meetings Schedule as printed. The Motion was approved unanimously.
6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Family Fun Night Event 2018 – ongoing discussion
Chairman Fleig stated that the Family Fun Night event is currently on the Town schedule for the evening of Friday, September 7, 2018 with Haddam River Days scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2018. He has spoken with First Selectman Lizz Milardo about possibly making changes to the Family Fun Night program and/or date. The changes commissioners want to make can be discussed over the next few months; however, the popular band they usually have booked for Family Fun Night would have to be booked very soon, as its schedule fills up quickly. The

commissioners again discussed their feelings about continuing Family Fun Night, which has been held for many years with attendance going down considerably and with the same people attending in recent years.

The commissioners agreed that they would prefer to investigate combining activities with the Haddam River Days committee on Saturday instead of continuing the Friday night event. They would also like to involve/get input from many more social and service organizations/groups in town to attract a larger more varied group of residents to the festivities. The commissioners offered for discussion several ideas, inclusive of booking a band or DJ for the Saturday event and/or trying some other new entertainment activities instead. Some types of possible activities discussed included renting movies for the children to enjoy in the open air, inviting food trucks, political groups booths, organizing old fashioned fair races, contests, and games. Ms. Hughes agreed to make first contact with a representative from Haddam River Days to discuss its interest and opportunities. The commissioners agreed they would not book the band at this time and with other groups being contacted and ideas shared and plans agreed to, the Family Fun Night event as held in previous years is cancelled.

b. 2017-2023 Capital Plan – further discussion/ make assignments:

The commissioners again discussed the most urgent items included on the current Haddam Park & Recreation Commission Capital Plan:

- 1) Reconstruction of the Driveway at the Brickyard Field – plan update
Chairman Fleig reported that he will be responsible for obtaining bids and completing what he considers the top priorities of grading and paving of the driveway at the Brickyard Field so that the work can be done before the season begins;
- 2) Plans for a Pavilion for Picnic Cover at Great Hill Fields
Vice Chairman Lonergan agreed to be responsible for working on plans for the future pavilion at the Great Hills Fields. He will contact the Town Building Department to obtain professional input re: the best location for the building and the required work involved in completing this project. There is \$7,500 in the line in the Capital Plan set aside for this work. The commissioners agreed the pavilion should ideally be large enough to house 4-6 picnic tables and would most likely require a poured slab as a base for the structure;
- 3) Completing the Well Installation and Beginning the Installation of a Field Irrigation System at Brickyard Field
The commissioners agreed to divide the work on this project into two phases: a) Phase I that includes completion of the existing well including installation of a stronger pump and improving drainage of the fields via grading and b) Phase II that involves irrigation of the fields, including installation of pipes to get the water from the well in the corner of the lot to the fields and installation of the sprinkler heads so that the lot can be self-irrigating especially in dry weather months. Chairman Fleig agreed to be responsible for getting this work completed with completion of the well taking priority and the irrigation work to possibly wait until after the ball seasons are over. He noted that he will address all of the Brickyard Field projects.

The commissioners agreed that the planned Outfield Fence relocation, Walking Trail and Basketball Court at Great Hill are less vital to address this year and can be worked toward after the above jobs are completed.

c. Any other unfinished business

No additional items of unfinished business were discussed at this meeting.

7. New Business

a. *Continued Discussion of a potential Wish List/Survey re: Parks and Trails, etc.*

Ms. Hughes reported that she had been in contact with a representative of the Haddam Trails Group. She will be seeing additional members of the group later this week at an event and will report back to the Commission at the next Meeting. Ms. Hughes will also ask Haddam Trails Group members to attend an upcoming Commission Meeting to talk with the commissioners about new trails locations ideas and other trails issues. Ms. Hughes showed the commissioners a survey that had been included in a recent issue of the *Haddam Bulletin* and expressed her wish that this Commission could have included some questions in the survey for residents' consideration. She agreed to contact representatives from the *Haddam Bulletin* about their willingness to disseminate another survey geared toward a wish list of possible recreational activities as the Commission had discussed for consideration at previous meetings;

b. *Introduction of the need for new goals for the soccer fields*

Vice Chairman Lonergan informed the commissioners that there is a great need for new movable goals for the soccer fields at Great Hills. The current very old goals are rusted and they could become an insurance issue if an injury is caused when they are climbed on by children or repositioned. The repositioning of the old heavy-framed goals can also cause the fields to become dug up when individuals attempt to reposition them for practice kicks/goals. With the other commissioners' approval, Vice Chairman Lonergan will obtain price estimates for new goals. He believes the cost of new goals is low enough that it could be absorbed into the regular budget rather than needing to be included in the Capital Plan. He will report back to the commissioners at the next Commission Meeting and will be responsible for ordering the new goals;

c. *Additional Playing Fields Needed*

Chairman Fleig reported that the girls' softball group for the 5 to 16 years age range is looking for a field to play on. The commissioners discussed the possibility of using various existing fields including the Brickyard Field, High School Junior Varsity field, or Haddam Elementary School field. They determined that each is unusable in its present condition or unavailable due to scheduling issues. They noted that the only currently available field for softball is the High School Varsity field, which is heavily booked during the softball season. The currently unavailable Burr Elementary field was also discussed. It was noted that a field for use by Lacrosse teams would also be desirable. These field needs will be discussed further at future Commission Meetings.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence received or reviewed.

9. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Lonergan made the Motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Clerk