

Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019
MINUTES
Approved as Printed at the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

In attendance: Chairman Jason Lonergan, Vice Chairman Jennifer O'Neal,
Commissioner Daniel Belanger and Commissioner David Law

Not in attendance: Commissioner Peter Christopher

Staff in attendance: Visitor Town Planner William Warner
Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lonergan called the Meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

2. Town Planner - Discussion of Town Properties and Long-Term Park & Recreation Ideas

Chairman Lonergan introduced Town Planner William Warner to all present; everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the town planner. Chairman Lonergan noted that he had had several conversations with Town Planner Warner over the past few months. He told Town Planner Warner that the commission has accumulated some Capital Plan funding to work on some projects and they are now planning for the 2020-2021 budget and capital plan requests. The commissioners have discussed multiple creative ideas toward both increasing recreation and improving the parks in Haddam, but they need some guidance from the Town regarding how much time and monetary investment they should reasonably target for these projects. The commissioners noted that there is currently some renovation work required at both the busier Great Hills fields and especially at the less used Brickyard field to raise them to their fullest current capabilities. They explained that representatives of the Haddam Little League (HLL), which practices and plays some games at the Brickyard field, has informed Commissioner Christopher that there are some projects that they see need to be completed to make the field safer and improve the quality of the play at that field. The HLL expressed an interest in investing some of its own funds to make improvements to the field for the time that the group uses it. The commissioners noted that there are also some projects that are in the planning stages, including those for a basketball court, a pavilion, and a splash pad, plus requests from members of the public for a walking trail with exercise stations within Great Hills.

Town Planner Warner said that these plans could tie in with work he is doing on planning in Higganum Center in conjunction with the group that has been working on engaging interested town residents and recently hosted the planning charettes around town. Town Planner Warner noted that there is some interest in several currently unused town sites and empty buildings that could bring further businesses and forms of tourism to town. He has been working on grants for a walking trail at a local park and is looking for ways to connect many different projects being considered for the central town area, in the Jail Hill area, and in other parts of Haddam. He is interested in working with and communicating further with this commission to assist the Town in expediting some of the discussed projects. The commissioners and Town Planner Warner briefly discussed the recently formed Blue

Green Way group and the recent communications/interactions with the nearby railroad companies and with the DEEP and DOT regarding town planning projects. The commission will continue to communicate with Town Planner Warner and commissioners agreed to attend public meetings where possible toward continuing to move the discussed town planning projects forward.

3. 2020-2021 Budgets

Following Town Planner Warner's departure, the commissioners reviewed the 2020-2021 Budget forms that Chairman Lonergan had received, and discussed amendments/additions to the various budget lines. The commissioners agreed to having Chairman Lonergan request additional funding budget lines to allow for price increases for services and to add a new line to the budget for additional planning. Chairman Lonergan will, therefore, prepare the 2020-2021 budget request and file it with the financial department prior to the December 20 deadline.

4. Adjournment

Vice Chairman O'Neal made the Motion seconded by Commissioner Law to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Secretary