

Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Unofficial Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2019
MINUTES
Accepted as printed at the November 14, 2019 Meeting

In attendance: Vice Chairman Jason Lonergan and Commissioner Jennifer O'Neal

Not in attendance: Commissioner Daniel Belanger

Staff in attendance: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lonergan called the Meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

2. Public Comment

Per a resident's question/request, a Public Comment item was added to the Agenda with commissioners in attendance, Chairman Lonergan and Commissioner O'Neal, agreeing to the addition.

Resident Mark Lundgren suggested some potential additions/changes to the Great Hill Ball Fields that he said many people have been asking for, comparing the Great Hill property to sports fields available in other nearby towns, specifically: 1) to develop walking trails with exercise stations along the way and 2) to trim/remove approximately every other boundary tree in the wall of trees along the front fence of the property in order to make the walking trails more visible.

Chairman Lonergan noted that the commission had discussed on several occasions the expansion of the walking trail and the development of walking paths on Town property across Jail Hill Road from the fields. This topic should be continued as a possible addition to the commission's 2020-2021 Budget Capital Plan.

3. Introduction of any newly appointed Members

Chairman Lonergan noted that there had been no new members appointed to the commission to-date; however, he understands that one resident who had been attending meetings is to be appointed as a new commissioner at an upcoming Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, the September 12, 2019 Minutes approval was tabled until the next Meeting.

5. General Review of current budget financial reports (09/2019) and end of fiscal year status

The commissioners briefly reviewed the two monthly financial reports, "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures, General Fund, July 2019-June 2020", dated 10/03/2019 and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures, Capital Non-Recurring, July 2019-June 2020", dated 10/03/2019. Chairman Lonergan restated that the two main ongoing maintenance and mowing services for the two ballfield properties had been extended through the end of this fiscal year, using the existing service companies.

6. Unfinished Business

a. *Final Planning for the Grim's Haunted House event October 25 and 26 with event representatives*

Resident Jack Calhoun was present, representing Chuck Cook and Grim's Haunted House, to discuss the events scheduled for October 25-26 and the Haddam Trunk or Treat scheduled for October 26 only. Resident Mark Lundgren also offered input regarding the event planning.

All of the details were reviewed and assignments before and during the events were offered by the two commissioners present.

Chairman Lonergan said that he would contact Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth and the high school guidance office regarding enlistment of student volunteers from the high school to work at the event, wishing to fulfill part of their community service (it was noted that Wednesday and Thursday that week will be half days at school). Chairman Lonergan also said he would check on what items (port-o-lets, trash cans, etc.) onsite for the Pumpkin Run on Sunday, October 27th might be available to be shared by participants of this event. He also was going to contact the Haddam Public Works Department to see about having use of traffic cones and additional lighting especially in the parking lot and the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company and CT state troopers about traffic control and safety issues on Route 154 and Candlewood Hill Road.

Commissioner O'Neal offered to call local restaurants for pizzas to be delivered an hour before opening to feed the workers. She will also purchase extra candy to ensure there will be enough for the entire length of time of the Trunk or Treat activity and bottled water to have on hand.

Chuck Cook had contracted with a food truck to be onsite to sell refreshments to the public. It was arranged that there will be a collection jar at the entrance to the Haunted House for donations to benefit the Haddam Food Bank and the Haddam Fuel Bank.

b. *Haddam Elementary School property – any new information*

Chairman Lonergan said he is awaiting the Town's plan for this property. He is still hoping to have the town planner attend one of the commission's meetings to discuss viable and reasonable options. It had been noted earlier that this commission should make known its collective wishes/suggestions for the uses of this property in writing to the Town.

c. *Status of activities at Great Hills Fields and Brickyard property*

Chairman Lonergan noted that with only a few scheduled games remaining, winterization of the sites should be completed soon and scheduled spring maintenance services will begin once the fields have defrosted and can once again be easily worked. The commissioners discussed an irrigation issue that had recently occurred. There had been a complaint by a member of the public that the fields watering system was not working; a repairman was called to check the system, repair the auto start switch, and revise the watering schedule.

At a previous meeting, Resident Peter Christopher had been asked by the commission to research service cost estimates for specific needed work to be done at Great Hill and Brickyard fields. He distributed copies of proposal sheets he received from two different companies, showing the work to be done and the related costs involved with the requested needed repairs/replacements to the backstop and fencing at the two fields. The commissioners reviewed the proposals and decided that they will request at least one additional estimate before moving forward.

7. New Business

a. *Future Capital Planning – any new thoughts*

Chairman Lonergan noted that the commission had received suggestions from Mr. Lundgren and had at various earlier meetings discussed some ideas for future Capital Plan works to be considered in the next (2020-2021) Budget, which they will continue to work on in the next few months.

b. *Additions of any new ideas for the park-related and recreation-related activities to the Commission ongoing list*

Chairman Lonergan suggested waiting on adding more items to this list until they see what the Town decides to recommend for the purposes/usages of the valuable Haddam Elementary School property.

8. Correspondence

Chairman Lonergan reported that all of the communications the commission had received from its Town Office Building mailbox were advertisements and other “junk” mail.

9. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Clerk