

**Haddam Park & Recreation Commission
Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018
MINUTES
*Approved at the October 11, 2018 Meeting***

Commissioners Present: Chairman David Fleig, Vice Chairman Jason Lonergan, and Secretary Mary Alice Hughes, and Commissioner Daniel Belanger

Commissioners Not Present: All in attendance

Staff not present: Barbara Galloway, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Fleig called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

2. Introduction of any newly appointed Members

There was no new member appointed or present at this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Meeting

Commissioner Hughes made the Motion seconded by Commissioner Belanger to approved as printed the June 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

4. General Review of current budget financial reports (through 08/2018)

The commissioners reviewed and compared four financial reports, "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2018 to June 2019 – General Fund", dated 08/07/2018 and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2018 to June 2019 – Capital Non-Recurring", dated 08/07/2018 for July 2018 and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2018 to June 2019 – General Fund", dated 09/10/2018, and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2018 to June 2019 – Capital Non-Recurring", dated 09/10/2018 for August 2018, that had all been distributed at this meeting.

Chairman Fleig reported that all of the monthly and semi-annual field maintenance and sanitation contract agreements have now been completed for the fiscal year and the approximately \$29,000. in funds for field maintenance have been encumbered in the financial records and are reflected in the financial reports. He noted that there is more than \$8,600. remaining in that budget line as well as over \$2,000. in the Sanitary Facilities line to address any unforeseen emergencies, which should be more than adequate for the fiscal year.

Vice Chairman Lonergan noted that the Basketball Court plan is still on the commission's Capital Non-Recurring budget. He suggested that he can obtain estimates for a new pavilion for the Great Hills site and will report back to the commissioners at the October meeting. The commissioners shared ideas for the pavilion's placement.

5. Unfinished Business

a. *Planning re: HP&R involvement with an October public event*

Chairman Fleig told the commissioners that he had spoken with Chuck Clarke, the creator of the Haunted House that is part of the "Trick or Trunk" Hallowe'en event in October in Higganum Center. This event involves a gathering of owners of antique and other older model vehicles to provide a safe and fun venue for younger town children to parade around in their Hallowe'en costumes among the cars to collect candy/other treats. Mr. Clarke had asked if this commission might be willing to help support "Trunk or Treat" by assisting him with the setting-up before and dismantling and packing-up of the Haunted House after the event. He suggested that the commissioners might consider also helping by serving treats and coffee and other beverages to the families that evening.

Chairman Fleig suggested that if the commission lends support for and worked on this event this October and then decided to continue its support of this town celebration beyond this year, the commissioners could later discuss ideas of ways to work with other town groups to enlarge the celebration by adding more games, programs, events, and vendors to the event in future years. The commissioners were enthusiastic and welcomed having Chairman Fleig contact Mr. Clarke for more details regarding how much time and work is involved in the construction and removal of the haunted house as well as what Mr. Clarke suggests the commissioners could provide for refreshments and also find out where and when the event will be held. The commissioners agreed to start this Fall by providing support by way of working at the site and providing some needed funding from the commission Expand Recreational Opportunities budget line. Chairman Fleig will report back to the commissioners with more information after talking with Mr. Clarke and getting more details. This will be further discussed and more plans will be made at the October 11 meeting.

b. *Haddam Trails – Informational discussion following further research*
Commissioner Hughes said that she would speak to a representative of the Haddam Trails Group and ask members of the group to come and speak with the commissioners at the October meeting.

c. *Replacement Soccer Goals on Great Hill Athletic Complex Soccer Field*
Vice Chairman Lonergan had investigated prices for replacement soccer nets and reported that the larger soccer nets were approximately \$2,800. for 2 nets and \$1,800. for 2 of the smaller movable nets. The smaller nets would be used for the younger children to play and for practice by older kids when they need to move them around during practices. Currently the field is borrowing smaller nets from KRP. The commissioners agreed that Vice Chairman Lonergan should order the needed replacement nets and provide them with the exact cost for each type at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Lonergan made the Motion seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve the appropriation of funds not to exceed \$5,000. to replace soccer goals at the Great Hills Fields. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lonergan said that he looked for the PO form on the Town's new web site, but could not locate it on the new system. Chairman Fleig said that he would get the information for accessing the PO form to Vice Chairman Lonergan.

d. *Brickyard Field Fence Quotes – Capital Repair Item and other issues*
Chairman Fleig informed the commissioners that he had two vendors interested in doing the needed fence repairs, but has not yet been able to meet with either of them on the site.

Chairman Fleig reported that there are no student-aged teams planning to play on the field this Fall except for spotty use by men's and women's softball teams. He spoke with the commissioners about his growing concern that the current increasingly dwindling use of the field by local teams was causing the field to be overgrown more than it would be with regular play and the location of the field makes it harder to monitor for misuse and vandalism. He had begun to wonder if the monthly maintenance costs incurred were becoming worth the small amount of use there. The commissioners discussed the Brickyard Field, its value to the town and suggested its other possible uses, including converting it to a multi-use field or a dog park. Chairman Fleig told the commissioners he would speak with First Selectman Milardo about their concerns and ideas and get her thoughts for the field's possible purposes. Chairman Fleig will report back to them about this issue.

e. *Any other unfinished business*

i. *Discussion of use of HES*

Vice Chairman Lonergan spoke of his concern that the Haddam Elementary School building and property could be sold when the school closes due to school consolidation. Other commissioners agreed that this important building and its grounds should be further discussed by the commission and the town's residents before any final decisions regarding the property are made by Regional School District #17 and the Town.

ii. *Review of Haddam Park & Recreation Commission 2019 Meeting Schedule*

The 2019 Meeting Schedule draft was distributed for the commissioners' review. Vice Chairman Lonergan noted a typographical error that was then corrected and the commissioners agreed to remove two months' unneeded meeting dates from the new schedule.

6. New Business

a. *Development of a list of ideas for new park-related and recreation-related activities*

This topic was informally discussed during considerations of other topics and will be continued at future meetings.

7. Correspondence

No correspondence was received for review at this meeting.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Lonergan made the Motion seconded by Commissioner Hughes to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 11, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D. Galloway
Recording Clerk