

SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION  
SALEM, CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Present

Pam Henry  
Dave Kennedy  
Sue Spang/Chairperson  
Diane Weston  
Crispin Fresco-Hawes  
Al Giansanti  
Alex Mercier/Recording Secretary

Absent

Bob Appleby  
Doug Morrow  
Vacancy  
Guests  
Donald Bourdeau

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Sue Spang called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**1. MINUTES:**

**M/S/C (Weston/Kennedy) to approve the October 19, 2015 minutes as presented.**

**Vote: Approved unanimous.**

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

None.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT/GUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

D. Bourdeau stated that the playground is complete and is getting a lot of use. They are in the process of cutting down all the hazardous trees. Hopefully they will start the drainage given that weather stays good.

S. Spang asked if the bollards should go up now or after winter. It was agreed that they should wait until early spring.

Possibilities were discussed for how to get kids to be more respectful of facilities.

D. Bourdeau asked about parking around here for field use and the safety issues that they create.

D. Bourdeau brought up issues with pets on playing areas of fields, track, and playing surfaces.

The Commission agreed to look over the ordinance and decide what to do from there.

S. Spang stated that she would look into getting a cement pad near the concession stand and picnic tables near the basketball court chained to the ground or pads.

D. Kennedy stated that he and D. Bourdeau discussed the scoreboard prior to the meeting. We have a transformer that is more powerful than we need but the company we bought it from has not gotten back to us yet regarding getting a lower powered one.

D. Bourdeau stated that no one is using the gym on Sundays even though it is reserved and thinks that something needs to be done about that.

D. Bourdeau would like the gate going down to the Babe Ruth field to be dressed up a bit so it looks better.

**4. ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS**

**M/S/C (Giansanti /Kennedy) to add Meeting Dates for 2016 to the agenda under New Business after Membership Issue.**

**Vote: Approved unanimous.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Town Tree Lighting** – D. Kennedy will get doughnuts and hot chocolate. P. Henry will do candy canes and cider. S. Spang will get decorations. Sue Bennet is the school contact for 8<sup>th</sup> graders assisting with Tree Lighting. They need to be there at 3:00pm and picked up at 5:15pm. Santa is confirmed. A. Giansanti will have the duty of plugging in the tree for the official lighting. The flyer is made and distributed.
- b. BOF Capital Report** – D. Kennedy went Thursday night to re-justify our capitol request to the BOF. D. Kennedy stated that he made 2 requests – 1 was septic for 37,000 and concession for 136,000. The fields are worth between 400 and 800 thousand total. Concern for concession stand is that it will be vandalized but the Commission agreed that there is little validity to that concern because there is always a chance that something new is going to get vandalized no matter what it is.
- c. Playscape** – S. Spang stated that it is done and the commission agreed that it looks great. D. Kennedy asked about an agreement that may have been made with the company for getting a sign. S. Spang clarified that they don't legally need the sign and other discounts were given to make it a good deal.
- d. Scoreboard** – D. Kennedy stated that the footings are in. Looking to pour on black Friday. He will get prices on electric – at least the conduit for it. S. Spang stated that D. Kennedy took charge of this project and that he and the Lions worked very hard on getting the holes ready.
- e. Well at Volunteer Park – NONE.**
- f. Membership Issue** – S. Spang stated that D. Kennedy was asked by the First Selectmen to resign from Rec Commission because he is now on the BOS. The First Selectman stated that the reason is because there is a potential conflict of interest. It is the UNANIMOUS CONCENSUS of The Rec Commission that they do not agree and think if there was a conflict of interest it would have been with a member being on the BOF not the BOS. The commission believes wholeheartedly that D. Kennedy is capable of making reasonable and informed decisions, and that his membership on both committees will not alter his decision making abilities whatsoever. D. Kennedy will update us further on this matter after his meeting.
- g. Meeting Dates for 2016** – Validity of the dates presented was discussed. Everything was fine except 2016 was written instead of 2017 for the January of 2017 meeting date. That was to be changed.

**M/S/C (Henry/Fresco-Hawes) to accept the amended meeting dates for 2016/2017.**

**Vote: Approved unanimous.**

- h. Recreation Clerk Report** – A. Mercier reported that he has sent out a Leisure Activity Interest Survey and started getting them back. There is a theater class set up that will start in January. An AARP Driver Safety Training course will occur on Thursday, January 21. A Red Cross Babysitting Course is being set up. A town-wide snowman building contest occur throughout the winter. A. Mercier is in the process of getting donations from local businesses for prizes for the contest. Bus trips to Lee, MA and NYC will occur at the end of November and beginning of December. An article was submitted for the Our Town Winter issue. Pictures of the playscape and scoreboard project were put online and sent out as email blasts.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Volunteer Park – NONE**
- b. Baseball** – D. Kennedy stated that there was a meeting last Sunday. They discussed more merging with BOZRAH. Only teams that merge are Majors baseball right now. They are talking about doing it with minors

and softball as well - everything but T-Ball. Gym time was discussed. Sundays are available. The reason behind the t-ball field being turned into all grass was discussed. S. Spang stated that they should let us know what's going on with Babe Ruth. P. Henry stated that she hopes they understand that they have let the Babe Ruth field get to the way it is now and they need to do something about it. It is hard to address the situation because of the general indifference of parents regarding situations like these.

D. Weston left at 8:05

D. Kennedy stated that he will let them know that they really need to police the kids down there so they don't destroy the fields. S. Spang stated that they need to crack down on the no parking on the roads because of the safety issues it presents.

c. **Soccer – NONE**

d. **Basketball- NONE**

e. **Tennis – It will be done in a month.**

f. **Multi-purpose Path – S. Spang stated that they went before wetlands to request permits for all the connecting they want to do in the wetlands via bridges and boardwalks for a walking trail. No response yet.**

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**NONE.**

## **8. FUTURE ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Community Ice Skating Rink – NONE**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C (Kennedy/Giansanti) to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. Vote: approved unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Alex Mercier  
Recording Secretary