

**TOWN OF SALEM  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

**PRESENT**

Alan Maziarz, Chairperson  
Robert Appleby  
Arthur Bergman  
Mary Jean Blezard  
Mary Durkee  
Jessica Fletcher  
Crispin Fresco-Hawes  
Teri Natoli

**ABSENT**

*none*

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

New members Mary Durkee and Mary Jean Blezard were welcomed to the Commission. Chairman Maziarz thanked them for their willingness to volunteer their time and energy and serve their community, as a whole, and the Commission, in particular; the Commission looks forward to their input.

**2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of July 22, 2019 August 19, 2019**

**M/S/C: Appleby/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 19, 2019. Discussion: It was believed that the July 22, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved at their last meeting. Chairman Maziarz will contact the company hired to repair the tennis courts regarding the status of the project, which was slated to begin at the end of August. Voice vote, 7-0-1. Voting in Favor: Commissioners Appleby, Blezard, Durkee, Fletcher, Fresco-Hawes, Maziarz, and Natoli. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Commissioner Bergman.**

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

The following item was moved to follow item 3:

8(d) Trunk or Treat

The following items were added to the Agenda:

9(c) Baseball Field Recreation Lockers

10(c) Other New Business

**8(d) Unfinished Business, Trunk or Treat**

Commissioner Fletcher announced that the Trunk or Treat event will take place on Saturday, October 26 (rain date, Sunday, October 27) from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Witch Meadow Campground. Similar to the previous year, the event will be held on the same day as the Town's AppleFest event. She requested additional funding for hot cider and hot cocoa and to purchase

additional prizes for the games. A link allowing people to register their trunk(s) online will be advertised on the event flyer and physical forms may be submitted to the Recreation Department at Town Hall. Set up time for the trunks will be 3:00 p.m.

**M/S/C: Appleby/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the allocation of up to \$500.00 for the 2019 Trunk or Treat event. Discussion: Commissioner Natoli stated that gift certificates to local eateries were offered to the winners of the Memorial Day Bike Contest and were well-received; she suggested the possibility of doing the same for costume winners. Commissioner Durkee volunteered to decorate a trunk on behalf of the Commission. Voice vote, 8-0, all in favor.**

*Commissioner Fletcher departed the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*

Chairman Maziarz stated that he will be attending the event and the Commission can discuss and finalize their participation in the event at their next meeting.

**4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence – none**

**5. Report on the Budget: A. Maziarz**

Chairman Maziarz stated that an itemized financial report is available upon request. To date, four (4) invoices have been/will be paid and approximately 4% of their budget has been expended.

**6. Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: Agnes Miyuki, interim**

Due to the threat of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), all evening outdoor activities have been cancelled. The cancellation has affected the evening Tennis with Anne Santoro session, which has been re-scheduled for Saturday mornings, September 21 to October 19, from 9:15-10:30 a.m. and the Dog Obedience Course, which will be held at the Gardner Lake Fire Company.

At the request of the Salem Seniors, the AARP has been contacted regarding the possibility of holding a Smart Driver course in Salem.

Salem resident Ryan Waterman has contacted Recreation regarding the possibility of starting an Adult Flag Football Team in Salem. Another individual, Dave Baker, posted his interest in utilizing the recreation fields for adult flag football pickup games.

Due to lack of funding, the Salem School Multi-Purpose Room and Gymnasium will not be available for use until November. Requests from the East Lyme/Salem Youth Basketball League, Salem Baseball/Softball League have been received and requests for Adult Men's Basketball and FIT4MOMS are expected. The possibility of reserving the gym for co-ed volleyball and/or pickleball was briefly discussed. First Selectman Lyden stated that, because the Board of Education will no longer be funding the costs for the weekend custodian(s), the Town will be taking over those costs for the current fiscal year.

Thanks to John Gadbois, residents were able to enjoy a short hayride around the Town Green during the Heritage Day event as well as a Vintage Base Ball game at the Round Hill Road Fields. In addition, a disc golf net and discs and pickleball equipment as well as a small table offering a brochure of the Town's Fall programs were set up in an effort to promote the upcoming programs.

Commissioner Natoli suggested the possibility of engaging the Historical Society to co-host future Vintage Baseball games. The possibility of engaging them to speak was also suggested.

A copy of the 1996 *Our Town* newsletter was distributed to the Commission for their information as well as for possible ideas for future programs and activities.

**7. Public Works Report: Public Works Director Don Bourdeau – *not present***

**8. Unfinished Business**

**a. Pickleball – How do we do this?**

Chairman Maziarz, who had the opportunity to engage in pickleball game, discussed ways in which the Commission might be able to promote the activity. The possibility of attending a future Salem Seniors meeting, contacting Salem Seniors Liaison Pam Henry, attending the weekly Seniors Drop-In at the Library, and/or creating brochures was discussed.

**b. Volunteer Field, Forsyth Road: Status Update**

Commissioner Appleby is in the process of gathering estimates for the well and septic and, in an effort to estimate the cost for the Pavilion, has also requested pricing for the concrete.

**c. Disc Golf: Disc Golf Consultant Shawn Callaghan – Next Steps Update & Grant Ideas**

Commissioner Natoli invited the Commissioners to a walk-through meeting with Mr. Callaghan on Thursday, September 19, 5:00 p.m., at the Salem Park Pavilion. She will be setting up and managing a social media campaign promoting all aspects of the project.

**d. Trunk or Treat – *see above***

**9. New Business**

**a. Concession Stand – Future Plans & Ideas**

To avoid the need for the construction of a new concession stand or upgrading the current stand, Chairman Maziarz suggested inciting volunteers to pull a portable concession stand, in the form of a wagon, around the fields during the games this season. In the future, the possibility of constructing a very small portable shed, similar to that of Veterans Field in Niantic, in a centrally located area was proposed. The existing stand has been closed for the past few years and was opened and well-received during the Summer tournament.

Commissioner Bergman added that the number of attendees when only one game is being played also poses an issue. In such case, Chairman Maziarz felt that a walking concession stand might be useful. Commissioner Appleby suggest the possibility of contacting Damian Foster and inviting the Salem Soccer team(s) to play a game(s) at the field.

**b. Winter Gym Usage – Form Submission and Schedule – *See discussion in item 6 above***

**c. Baseball Field Recreation Lockers**

Chairman Maziarz will contact Public Works Director Bourdeau regarding the possibility of cleaning and utilizing the garage by the Concession Stand at the Round Hill Road fields to store the equipment that is currently being stored and transported to and from the Zemko garage every season. The wood from the tee-ball lockers that are no longer being used would be re-purposed

and pallets would be placed on the ground so as protect the stored items from any ground moisture. Commissioner Natoli suggested painting the floors in the bathrooms for easier maintenance. First Selectman Lyden stated that locks that may be opened/closed with a code may be purchased/installed to allow more regular use of the bathrooms.

**10. Future/New Recreation Endeavors: Currently Held**

**a. Ice Skating Rink**

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of installing an ice skating rink. During the off-season, the area could be utilized for bocce or beach volleyball. It was noted that it would be considered a Capital Item and would need to be presented to the Board of Finance. Chairman Maziarz will contact former Commissioner Doug Morrow regarding the details and associated costs.

**b. Garden Club**

The possibility of inviting the seniors or the participants of the Community Garden to spearhead the Club were proposed. Commissioner Natoli volunteered to contact the Community Gardeners to gauge their possible interest. One of the issues that was raised was the ongoing maintenance of the garden(s).

**c. Other New Business**

Concert Series – Chairman Maziarz was recently forwarded an e-mail from a jazz musician who was interested in being part of a concert series. In addition, an upcoming cultural art performance brochure was presented to the Commission.

EEE – First Selectman Lyden reported on the cancellation of all organized evening activities due to the threat of EEE, which will affect the recreation programs. He stated that mosquitos have tested positive for EEE in 12 CT towns. In addition, two horses from Colchester and Columbia have tested positive and a Salem horse is currently being tested. The first human case of EEE has been identified of an individual from East Lyme. Commissioner Fresco-Hawes stated that East Lyme High School has also cancelled all organized evening activities.

Find Your Footprint Medallions – Chairman Maziarz requested that any Commissioners interested in volunteering to hide any medallions contact him. Medallions will not be hidden at Zemko Pond, which is used for hunting during the Fall months. Possible trails include Smuggler's Rock, Zemko Sawmill, Riverside, and Darling Road Preserves and the Multi-Purpose Trail. In response to Commissioner Natoli regarding the bridge along the Multi-Purpose Trail, First Selectman Lyden believed and will confirm with the Wetlands Officer that a wetlands permit was previously issued for the bridge.

**11. Adjournment**

**M/S/C: Appleby/Fresco-Hawes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 8-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem