

**TOWN OF SALEM  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Robert Appleby

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

First Selectman Lyden reported that a new Christmas tree is scheduled to be planted after the Apple Festival event and stated that the Trunk or Treat event may be held until 6:00 p.m. due to the threat of the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

**2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of September 16, 2019**

**M/S/C: Natoli/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0.**

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

The following item was added under New Business:

9(d) Capital Item Requests

**4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence**

Maryann Casciano, 99 Morgan Road, and Susan Soderberg, 17 Syleo Lane, spoke with regards to starting a yoga program in the Town of Salem. Both Ms. Casciano and Ms. Soderberg formerly attended the Salem Recreation yoga classes hosted at *Body by Bliss*, which has since closed. They are interested in reviving the program and have located a Certified Yoga Instructor who is interested in teaching the class at Center School. A group of four (4) individuals interested in taking the class has been gathered thus far. The weekly class would be held on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Natoli reported that a yoga class was held a number of years ago at Salem School's Multi-Purpose Room in which up to 30 individuals participated. In addition, a yoga class is currently being offered in the afternoons at Center School. The Commissioners responded positively to the program and stated that, should the program grow in numbers, the class may be held in Salem School's Multi-Purpose room.

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

Chairman Maziarz reported that he has signed off on invoices for the CT Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) membership and Music Lessons with Chris Hebert.

Commissioner Natoli recommended that the Commissioners update their e-mail addresses through CRPA to ensure that they receive their e-mail announcements and encouraged everyone to attend their upcoming conference in November.

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

The Basic Dog Obedience Class, which is in progress, was moved from the Salem Community Park Pavilion to the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company due to the threat of EEE. The Zombie Apocalypse Dog Training Course was cancelled due to the lack of registrations.

Three of the Adult Tennis Classes with Anne Santoro were re-scheduled for October 18, 24 and 31. The Thursday evening classes, which were also re-scheduled to Saturday mornings due to the threat of EEE, was cancelled due to lack of registrations.

A very successful AARP Smart Driver Course was held on Tuesday, October 15. A total of 24 seniors participated in the course.

The individual interested in forming an Adult Flag Football League in Salem as well as the individual who was interested in holding pick-up flag football games at the Round Hill Road fields were invited to attend this evening's meeting to discuss their idea(s) with the Commission.

Interim Coordinator Miyuki is investigating the possibility of holding affordable programs for children during their Spring break. Any suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Chairman Maziarz will contact the company regarding the status of the tennis court repairs.

The medallions for the Find Your Footprint project have been hidden and people have started to register their found footprints, which are being posted on the website and the Recreation Facebook page.

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

**8. Unfinished Business**

**a. Trunk or Treat – Confirm Schedule**

The Trunk or Treat event will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. Commissioner Fletcher reported that a total of 11 registrations have been received to date and is aware of five to six additional individuals who are also interested, but have not yet registered. The event is being planned and coordinated by Pam Maziarz, the Salem Volunteer Fire Company, Witch Meadow Campground's Deborah Cadwell and herself. A total of 11 volunteers, excluding the National Honors Society students, and members of the Salem Volunteer Fire Company have been secured thus far. They are also seeking adult volunteers to help supervise the children during the event. Both Commissioners Durkee, who will be hosting the trunk for the Commission, and Natoli offered to volunteer. A total of six to eight games are being planned.

**b. Pickleball – Winter Gym Time**

A gym request form has been submitted to the School for Pickleball/Co-Ed Volleyball for Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and will run from November 9, 2019 to April 8, 2020. The Commission is seeking an individual to help run the program.

Chairman Maziarz reported that the center locker in the Salem School Gym has been secured for the storage of Recreation equipment. The Pickleball equipment and the extra soccer goal nets, which were acquired due to a miscommunication with the school, will be stored in the locker. The nets were purchased at little or no cost. In response to Commissioner Natoli, who felt that Recreation should not be paying to support the School's programs, Chairman Maziarz stated that Recreation's Soccer Club also plays at the Round Hill Road fields. He will contact Salem Soccer Club President Damon Foster regarding the condition of the nets at the Forsyth Road/Volunteer Park Fields.

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

Chairman Maziarz reported that Commissioner Natoli and himself met with Disc Golf Consultant Callaghan last month to discuss the next steps for the course. Commissioner Natoli is actively building a community of support for the disc golf course. A letter of support has been drafted on behalf of the First Selectman, who is currently reviewing the letter. The idea has also been presented to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission. They are planning to start a social media campaign to begin building a community. They are in the process of seeking possible grants and discussed the possibility of obtaining additional funding from local businesses as well as utilizing the Commission's funds. The course is estimated to cost approximately \$20,000.00. The Commissioners were tasked with searching for other possible funding resources. After the course is completed, local businesses could be approached to sponsor a hole and the Commission could host tournaments for additional funding.

The disc golf net and the discs will be available for play at the upcoming AppleFest event.

**d. Recreation Shed – Round Hill Road**

Chairman Maziarz plans to clean up the Round Hill Road Recreation Shed to store recreation equipment. Public Works Director Bourdeau has informed him that Public Works will not be responsible for the items stored in the shed.

**e. Bike Path**

Former Chairman Natoli reported that she had attended a meeting hosted by the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) last year regarding the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan and spoke with Transportation Program Manager Kate Rattan, who felt it would not be possible to establish a bike trail connecting the Multi-Purpose Path and the Salem Community Park Pavilion due to the narrowness of the bridge on Music Vale Road. She also felt that it would not be possible to create the path connecting Music Vale to the Pavilion through Clark Lane.

**f. Volunteer Field, Forsyth Road: Status Update – no update**

The status of the Fall Soccer Program was briefly discussed. It is believed that the soccer program is open to ages 3 to 7. Chairman Maziarz will request an update from Salem Surge Soccer Club President Damon Foster regarding the program and request that regular updates be provided to the Commission, per the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). The importance of having clear-cut guidelines and transparency was discussed to ensure that the program grows and continues.

**9. New Business**

**a. Minds in Motion**

Chairman Maziarz introduced a brochure he received from *Minds in Motion, LLC*, which holds science workshops for children, ages 6 to 13, as a possible program offering.

**b. 2020 Meeting Schedule**

The Commission's 2020 meeting schedule will be presented to the Commissioners at their next meeting for approval.

**c. Winter Gym Calendar**

A Google calendar has been created for the Gym/MPR usage as the School has requested that Salem Recreation decide the Gym/MPR use when Recreation and East Lyme/Salem Youth Basketball requests overlap each other.

**d. Capital Item Requests**

The Commissioners briefly discussed possible Capital Item Requests which must be submitted to the Board of Finance by December 12, 2019. Capital Items include any purchases that cost \$5,000.00 and over. Commissioner Natoli proposed the possibility of requesting funding for disc golf baskets (approximately \$5,000.00) and tennis/basketball court LED lighting.

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

**a. Ice Skating Rink – Seek Quotes**

Chairman Maziarz has investigated do-it-yourself ice skating rink kits and located a 60' x 100' rink for approximately \$6,000.00. He has also requested cost estimates from Jay Pro.

Commissioner Fresco-Hawes suggested the possibility of peeling the ice skating rink membrane and using the area for a beach volleyball court when the rink is not in season.

Commissioner Natoli suggested the possibility of hosting a community fire roast/campfire.

**b. Garden Club**

*The item will be deleted from future agendas*

**11. Adjournment**

**M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Fletcher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.**