

**TOWN OF SALEM  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.  
SALEM COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION**

**PRESENT**

Alan Maziarz, Chairperson  
Art Bergman  
Mary Jean Blezard (6:25 p.m.)  
Jessica Fletcher  
Crispin Fresco-Hawes  
Teri Natoli

**ABSENT**

Mary Durkee

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of March 15, 2021**

**M/S/C: Natoli/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2021. Discussion: Commissioner Natoli commented that individuals who speak during the meeting should be noted in the minutes as an attendee and uninvited guests/visitors, without ex officio status, should only be allowed to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Voice vote, 5-0-1. Voting in Favor: Commissioners Blezard, Fletcher, Fresco-Hawes, Natoli, and Maziarz. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Commissioner Bergman.**

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda – none**

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

*Public comment must be left in the white drop box in front of Town Hall or e-mailed to agnes.miyuki@salemct.gov prior to the start of the meeting.*

Dog Obedience/Therapy Dog Trainer and Class Instructor Janet Schultz spoke regarding her interest in serving on the Dog Park Committee. As a trainer specializing in difficult and aggressive dogs, she felt that she would be able to contribute positive safety elements and introduced possible ideas and resources to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners briefly discussed their thoughts regarding the proposed dog park, including the location, funding, and formation of the Committee and felt that she would be a great asset to the committee. All of the interested parties will be invited to the Commission's next Regular Meeting to begin discussing the Committee's role.

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

Chairman Maziarz reported that approximately 12.2% of their FY2020/21 budget has been expended. Future expenses include the medallions for the Commission's *Find Your Footprint*

project, a recently received invoice for red clay for approximately \$4,700.00, and monthly invoices for the rental and maintenance of the porta-potties with handwashing stations for approximately \$2,300.00. A portion of the cost for the porta-potties/handwashing stations might be eligible as part of the COVID-19 grant funding.

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

An updated spreadsheet of the current, future, and possible programs was provided to the Commission. Items of note include:

The following classes may be postponed due to low enrollment:

Stretch & Balance for Adults

Yoga at the Park

Additions:

Minds in Motion: Kiko Robot – robot building and maneuvering

Electricity & Magnetmania

Chemical Creations

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

Digital Tickets for the *Adventure Park* in Bridgeport & Storrs and *Lake Compounce* were received today. Physical tickets for *Six Flags* are expected to arrive soon.

A call was received by a Tai Chi Instructor who is interested in holding a class(es). Other additional ideas for classes include jewelry making, wreath-making/flower arrangement, and farm animals.

A checklist will not be created for the Family Fun Trail; Commissioners will be sought to help place the signs along the Multi-Purpose/Harris Brook Trail for Connecticut Trails Day.

Commissioner Blezard will obtain estimates for the placement of a pre-built shed on crushed stone at the Pavilion. Sheds under 200 square feet will require the approval of the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Uncas Health District.

Chairman Maziarz also reported that the Salem Youth Baseball League held a very successful Opening Day event during which a plaque and gift cards were presented to the town's Public Works employees, who were unable to attend, for their hard work and efforts.

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

**8. Unfinished Business**

**a. Ice Rink/Volleyball 2021**

The Commission agreed to locate the ice rink/volleyball courts at the Pavilion. After applying for and obtaining the necessary approvals, the infrastructure for two volleyball courts will be prepared and equipment for one court will be purchased. The cost for one volleyball court is \$1,500.00 to \$1,900.00, excluding the sand.

**b. Trail Kiosks – quote(s) / Eagle Scout Updates**

Commissioner Bergman will investigate the possibility of engaging an Eagle Scout to plan and construct a kiosk and Commissioner Blezard will obtain estimates for pre-built kiosks should an Eagle Scout not be interested in the project. Commissioner Natoli presented images of the signage that will be installed at each of the disc golf holes and proposed the possibility of integrating the design with the kiosk. In addition to the kiosk, a small fence with respectful markers will be placed at the gravesite located on the property. Signage referring to the old farmhouse that was once located on the property will also be installed as an homage to the history of the site.

**c. Disc Golf Update – Course Walk**

Chairman Maziarz reported that an application for an as-of-right determination for the disc golf course was submitted and presented to the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission (IWCC) with Disc Golf Consultant Shawn Callaghan. The application packet included a letter of support from the First Selectman. Because the crossings are located across Frazier Brook, which is part of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed, the IWCC requested a reduction in the number of proposed crossings by approximately half, which will impact the course layout, and additional information regarding the types of crossings they are planning to install. In addition, the ZWEO will be informing the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed project. Chairman Maziarz will also be making a presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission to obtain a favorable §8-24 Review for the project at their next Regular Meeting.

**d. Salem Field Visit – June**

The Commission's next meeting will be held at the Pavilion on June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**e. Dog Park – Committee Process**

Those who have expressed an interest in serving on the Dog Park Committee will be contacted and invited to the Commission's next Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Chairperson of the Committee will report to and provide the Commission with regular updates. Possible locations were briefly discussed.

**f. Forsyth Volunteer Pavilion – no update**

**g. Fall Concert Planning – August 25**

The F&Blues Band and the *Rolling Tomato* Food Truck have been secured. *Captain Scott's* has also been contacted regarding their availability. Chairman Maziarz will investigate the availability of the *Dippin' Dots* food truck.

**h. Spring Bike Safety event – May 22**

Stunt bicyclist Chris Poulos will speak and perform at the Spring Bike Safety event. The event will be held at the Round Hill Road basketball court at 2:00 p.m. and will not conflict with the scheduled baseball/softball games. The Resident State Trooper and Fire Company will also be present and freebies will be offered.

The Commission agreed to host the Memorial Day Bike Decorating Contest on Memorial Day, May 31, following the annual Parade and Ceremony. Three \$10.00 gift cards to Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream will be purchased for the winners.

**i. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update**

Chairman Maziarz updated the Commission regarding his conversation with the Town Planner and their contribution to the town's POCD. Ideas for inclusion include improvements to the Round Hill Road fields, establishing a Hall of Fame for those who have made major contributions, sidewalk improvements, and connecting the Multi-purpose trail to the Round Hill Road Fields. The Commissioners were encouraged to think of other recreational possibilities, improvements, and additions.

**j. Salem Footprints – Spring Series & Hiking Challenge Raffle**

Chairman Maziarz reported that *The Red House* is in the process of completing this year's medallions, which will be placed along the trails as part of Connecticut Trails Day. The Commissioners will be informed when they are ready to be placed along the trails.

**k. Pickleball – Line Painting**

Chairman Maziarz will obtain estimates to add pickleball lines to the Round Hill Road tennis courts. The level of activity at the courts will be gauged.

**l. Star Gazing**

Salem Land Trust President Linda Schroeder will be contacted regarding the possibility of either joining together with the two individuals who are interested in forming an astronomy group and/or holding a stargazing event in Salem.

**9. New Business**

**a. Salem Rec Basketball – Treasurer News**

An announcement will be sent out regarding the formation of a Salem Basketball Board; interested parties will be asked to contact either himself or the Recreation Department. Commissioners Bergman, Durkee, Fletcher, Fresco-Hawes, Natoli, and Maziarz agreed to transfer the Treasurer's responsibilities from Michelle Anthony to Mary Durkee, who will handle the Board's financial account (Tax I.D. Number EIN 32-0335520).

Chairman Maziarz reported that Gene Maiorano expressed his interest in serving as a full member of the Commission. The First Selectman will be contacted to confirm whether other individuals have also expressed an interest in serving on the Commission.

**10. Adjournment**

**M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Bergman to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 6-0. Meeting adjourned.**

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