

**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
SALEM COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

none

1. Call to Order

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of May 17, 2021

M/S/C: Maziarz/Natoli, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.

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.

Salem Historical Society Museum Director William Schultz spoke with respect to the Commission's discussion regarding honoring the Dolbeare's gravesite at Salem Community Park. He reported that he is in possession of the report generated from the ground-penetrating radar that was conducted several years ago with the help of the State Soil Scientist and State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni to determine the location of the gravesite.

Chairman Maziarz stated that, in addition to marking the gravesite, the Commission has discussed the possibility of installing a kiosk that includes historical photographs of the area, including the home that was situated on the site. He looks forward to working together with the Historical Society on the project.

5. Report on the Budget: Alan Maziarz

Chairman Maziarz reported that approximately 34% of their FY2020/21 budget has been expended. The Commissioners discussed the First Selectman's proposal of utilizing part of their remaining funds to purchase trackpads for the entrances of the Salem School gymnasium to help protect the newly refinished floors; they agreed that the item might be more under the domain of the Basketball League, School, and/or Public Works budgets.

6. Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: Agnes Miyuki

An updated spreadsheet of the current, future, and possible programs, including the number of registrations for each program, was provided to the Commission.

To date, seven (7) registrations have been received for the Summer *Skyhawks* Lacrosse Camp. The minimum number of participants necessary to hold the camp is eight (8). Discussion ensued regarding the need to purchase equipment prior to the start of Camp.

The *Minds in Motion* Camps appear to be a popular camp with 12 registrations received to date for the Kiko.Robot.962 Camp and five to six registrations for the Electricity and Magnetmania, Chemical Creations, and CSI – Crime Scene Investigation Camps.

The tickets for *Adventure Park*, *Lake Compounce*, and *Six Flags New England* have been received. The tickets for *Six Flags New England* were reduced to \$31.99.

A meeting was held with the Tai Chi Instructor regarding the possibility of hosting classes in Salem and will be proposing a schedule in the coming days.

7. Public Works Report: Don Bourdeau – not present

Chairman Maziarz reported that the town has hired a Foreman/Public Works Supervisor.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Ice Rink/Volleyball 2021 – Hardware Update

The price quotes that were received for the volleyball set(s) were reviewed and discussed. The Commission agreed to purchase a set that includes a center pole allowing for two volleyball courts. The sleeves for the poles will be submerged into the ground and will have a locking mechanism. The possibility of securing the nets will be investigated. The Public Works Department will be contacted to temporarily install the court. The sand for the courts will be purchased in the future.

M/S/C: Natoli/Bleazard, to allocate up to \$2,000.00 for the purchase of a volleyball set which includes three (3) poles and two (2) nets. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.

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

Commissioner Bergman reported that the Scouts are not yet ready to decide upon their Eagle Scout projects. Commissioner Bleazard obtained price estimates for various pre-built kiosks. Commissioner Natoli reported that Disc Golf Consultant Shawn Callaghan proposed the possibility of installing individual kiosks for each of the available activities on the site and suggested acquiring a kiosk that is aesthetically similar to that of the disc golf signage that will be placed at each of the holes.

Commissioner Bleazard also obtained quotes for an 8' x 12' and 10' x 10' shed. Depending on the vendor, the sheds may be delivered from 6 to 14 weeks and the price range is approximately \$3,900.00 to \$4,600.00.

c. Disc Golf Update – IWCC Approval

Chairman Maziarz reported that Disc Golf Consultant Callaghan presented the revised site plan, reducing the number of crossings by half, and the types of proposed crossings to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission (IWCC), who approved the application for an as-of-right determination for the disc golf course. They will be contacting the volunteers and make plans to begin breaking ground. The updated site plan will be e-mailed to the Commissioners.

d. Salem Field Visit – July

The Commission's next meeting will be held at the Pavilion on Monday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.

e. Dog Park – Committee Invitations (7:00 p.m.)

Chairman Maziarz explained that, due to the amount of interest and feedback the Commission received for a Dog Park, they agreed to form a Committee to discuss and investigate the possibility of creating a self-funded, self-sustaining Dog Park in town. In speaking with one of the original members of the Colchester Dog Park Committee, Commissioner Blezard reported that one of the biggest expenses was the fencing and briefly discussed the maintenance of the park. Commissioner Natoli added that the Commission would like to task the Committee to draft the rules and regulations, determine the size, consider possible locations with respect to any neighboring properties, discuss the need for water, dog agility equipment, dog waste stations, a notice board, and the design and layout of the Park.

Debbie Delorimiere stated her connection with an individual with extensive knowledge forming dog parks and previous volunteer experience on another Dog Park Committee, which created a self-funded, self-sustaining, and successful dog park.

Deb Hutch, one of the original members of the Colchester Dog Park Committee, stated that she continues to remain a, relatively, active member of the Committee.

Janet Schultz stated that she has a connection with an individual who works with the Colchester Dog Park Committee to obtain sponsors for their events and who is willing to share some of their contacts.

Mr. Schultz proposed the possibility of installing Pet Waste Stations and acquiring the number of registered dogs from the Town Clerk's office to get an idea as to how many dogs might utilize the Park and help determine the size of the park.

It was explained that the Dog Park Committee would be a sub-Committee under the Recreation Commission and the Chairperson of the Committee will report to and provide the Commission with regular updates. The funds would be handled by the Commission. The meetings will require agendas and minutes posted with the Town Clerk's office. The Commission agreed to draft a list of possible locations they have discussed. The possibility of sending out a survey to the registered dog owners to gauge their interest and what they

would like to see in the dog park was proposed. Messages may be relayed through the Minutes Clerk.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

f. Forsyth Volunteer Pavilion – no update

g. Fall Concert Planning – August 25

Chairman Maziarz reported that the *Dippin' Dots* food truck was one of the unfortunate casualties of the pandemic. *Walsh's Waffle Wagon*, which was proposed by Commissioner Fresco-Hawes as an alternate possibility, will be contacted.

Signage will be created, ordered, and placed at key locations throughout the town to promote the event. Additional porta-potties (four total) and trash receptacles will be ordered for the event. The site plan for the concert was discussed.

Commissioner Fletcher departed from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

h. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

The following items were proposed as possible additions to the town's POCD: water park, splash pad, community pool, gravel walking trail around Round Hill Road, improvements to the town's existing trails, sidewalks, and bike trails.

i. Salem Footprints – Medallion Volunteers

The Medallions were distributed to the Commissioners for placement along the town's trails. The Medallion numbers and locations will be provided to the Chairman.

j. Pickleball – Line Painting Update

M/S/C: Maziarz/Blezard, to allocate up to \$900.00 to add permanent pickleball lines to one of the tennis courts at Round Hill Road. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor.

k. Star Gazing – no discussion

l. New Commission Members

Chairman Maziarz reported that there are two vacancies on the Commission. Gene Maiorano, who had previously expressed interest, is no longer available to serve on the Commission due to growing obligations.

9. New Business – none

10. Adjournment

M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Bergman to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0. Meeting adjourned.

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