

**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
SALEM COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION**

PRESENT

Alan Maziarz, Chairperson
Mary Durkee
Mary Jean Blezard
Crispin Fresco-Hawes
Teri Natoli

ABSENT

Art Bergman
Jessica Fletcher

1. Call to Order

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of June 21, 2021

M/S/C: Durkee/Blezard, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2021.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

The following item was added to the Agenda, under Item 9, New Business:

9(b) Salem Baseball Update

4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence

Cindy Affinati, New London Road, having heard that the Commission recently approved the painting of pickleball lines on one of the tennis courts, expressed her openness to offer a pickleball program. She will coordinate with the Recreation Coordinator to discuss the scheduling and promotion of the sessions.

The Commission confirmed that lines for two pickleball courts will be painted onto one of the tennis courts and the two portable nets and equipment will be made available for public use.

5. Report on the Budget: Alan Maziarz

Chairman Maziarz reported that approximately 46.8% of the FY2020/21 budget has been expended. \$6,000.00 remain available for the Recreation Association Programs. Because the basketball and soccer leagues are currently at a standstill, the Commissioners agreed to allocate \$6,000.00 to the Salem Youth Baseball League to purchase and install a new scoreboard.

6. Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: Agnes Miyuki

An updated spreadsheet of recreation programs was e-mailed to the Commissioners.

Appreciation was extended to Chairman Maziarz for setting up the Lacrosse nets at the Round Hill Road field for the Skyhawks Lacrosse Camp, which had (nine) 9 registrations. The Multi-Sport Camp was cancelled due to low registrations (2 registrations) and the Golf (4 registrations) and Tennis (2 registrations each for the beginning and intermediate to advanced) Camps are experiencing low numbers at this time. The Mini-Hawks Camp, which was held last week, was near capacity with 14 participants.

The *Minds in Motion* Kiko.Robot.962 and Electricity & Magnetmania Camps began today. The Kiko.Robot.962 Camp is (over-)full with 16 participants and the Electricity & Magnetmania Camp has seven (7) participants. The Chemical Creations and CSI – Crime Scene Investigation Camps, which will be held the first week of August, currently has seven (7) registrations each.

Tai Chi Instructor Ted LaFemina has proposed holding two free classes on Tuesday, August 10 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., prior to the Salem Seniors meeting, and Tuesday, August 17 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. at the Salem Community Park Pavilion to generate interest.

A virtual meeting was held with *Vanta Leagues*, a youth e-sports program for kids ages 9 to 14. The program provides coaching and mentorship for children interested in online gaming in a safe, structured, inclusive, and supervised environment. Leagues in three games (*League of Legends*, *Rocket League*, and *Valorant*) are currently offered. Each season is two months long. Practices are held twice a week and games, which are live-streamed and can be viewed by family and friends on *Twitch*, are held on Saturdays.

East Celebrity Elite Cheer & Dance on Route 85 in Oakdale was contacted regarding the possibility of hosting tumble classes. Due to the logistics, it would not be possible to offer classes in Salem, but the possibility of providing Salem residents with a discounted rate is being investigated.

The Yoga Instructor enquired about the possibility of engaging the services of a Harpist to play during one of the classes. The cost of the harpist is \$50.00. The Commissioners agreed to allocate funds for the harpist to play for the yoga group one time.

7. Public Works Report: Don Bourdeau – not present; no update

Chairman Maziarz reported that the town has hired a new Public Works Foreman/Supervisor, Tony Gallicchio; the Commission is looking forward to working with him in the near future.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Ice Rink/Volleyball 2021 – Location & Install

The volleyball nets have been ordered and are ready to be picked up and installed.

Chairman Maziarz will coordinate the temporary installation of the nets at the Pavilion with the Public Works Department. The final location of the ice rink/volleyball courts will be further discussed.

b. Trail Kiosks – Style Decision

A trail kiosk may be a future Eagle Scout project. Estimates were also gathered and will be further discussed. The possibility of purchasing and installing a dog poop bag dispenser for the Harris Brook/Multi-purpose Path Trail was discussed.

c. Disc Golf Update – In Full Swing

Chairman Maziarz reported that receipts for the lumber and photographs of the bog bridges and tee boxes that have been constructed to date were received. A price estimate for a kiosk that would align with the design of the disc golf signage will be obtained.

d. Salem Field Visit – August Site

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion.

e. Dog Park – Committee Update

The Recreation Coordinator has been corresponding with Debra Delorimiere, who has drafted an agenda and is planning to hold a meeting. Public Works will be contacted to inform them about the proposed Dog Park and Dog Park Committee.

f. Forsyth Volunteer Pavilion – Builder(s)

The Forsyth Road/Volunteer Park project has been moved out two years in the town's Capital Plan. The original plan included a pavilion, bathrooms, concession stand, various activities, etc. The plan was scaled back for a variety of reasons and was reduced to include a pavilion and storage area. The possibility of installing the ice rink/volleyball courts at Forsyth Road/Volunteer Park was briefly discussed.

g. Fall Concert Planning – Prep & Posters

The site plan for the Fall Concert has been approved by the Fire Marshal/Public Works Director, Zoning Officer, Building Department, and Uncas Health District and is awaiting approvals by the Resident State Troopers and First Selectman. The original site plan will be revised, moving the handicapped parking closer to the Pavilion area and the food trucks will be moved to the grassy area behind the Pavilion. The upper, main parking area will be reserved for those taking part in the event. Difficulty has been encountered with reserving a dessert food truck. Various town organizations will be contacted regarding their possible interest in hosting a table at the event.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, August 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pavilion. The food trucks are *Rustic Streets* and *The Rolling Tomato*.

M/S/C: Maziarz/Natoli, to allocate up to \$300.00 for advertising costs for the Fall Concert event. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

h. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) – Submission Update

The following additional items for inclusion in the town's POCD were proposed: sledding area, winter sports arena, community youth center, and a fireplace(s) inside the pavilion, similar to that of Hurd State Park in East Hampton.

i. Salem Footprints – Hidden Update

One medallion has been found to date. It was requested that the locations and medallion numbers be sent to the Recreation Coordinator for recording.

j. Pickleball – 2 Pickleball Courts by Hinding

Rather than painting lines for one pickleball court, lines for two (2) courts will be painted on either side of the tennis court, raising the cost to \$1,500.00. As such, the previous motion, allocating up to \$900.00 for the project, was revised to read:

M/S/C: Maziarz/Fresco-Hawes, to allocate up to \$1,600.00 for the painting of the pickleball lines for two (2) pickleball courts. Discussion: The lines will be baby blue in color. Taping the courts with a light tape, e.g., painter's tape, may be utilized in the interim. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Feet will be purchased and placed on the benches to make them sturdier.

k. Star Gazing – Update – no update

l. New Commission Members

Two (2) openings remain on the Commission. Commissioner Blezard will be referring an interested candidate to the First Selectman.

9. New Business

a. Salem Soccer – D. Foster Update

Salem Surge President Damon Foster formally notified the Commission that he will be stepping down as the President. A search for replacements has been unsuccessful due to the lack of a player base. In addition, he has been experiencing difficulties holding board meetings due to a lack of a quorum. Provisions in the by-laws allow the league to be dissolved but, because of the onerous process to rebuild the league, he is hoping that placeholders can be established to continue and ensure the future of the league. He will create an outgoing summary, deliver any paperwork, and store the equipment in the Round Hill Road shed.

In response to Commissioner Natoli, outgoing President Foster stated that the number of registrations fell from nearly 60 children prior to the pandemic to approximately 15 children for the Spring session. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to outgoing President Foster for all of his hard work and efforts. Like basketball, the Commission will continue to advertise for members to serve on the Board.

10. Adjournment

M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

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