

**TOWN OF SALEM
RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Robert Appleby
Arthur Bergman
Jessica Fletcher

1. Call to Order

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

He expressed his appreciation to the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant Meredith Eisenberg for organizing and distributing their Agenda Packets.

2. Act on a Motion to Approve the Minutes of October 21, 2019

M/S/C: Natoli/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2019.

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

3. Adjustments to the Agenda – none

4. Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence

Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman and Historical Society President Elbert Burr reported on the Bicentennial Committee's interest in celebrating the closing of the Town's Bicentennial celebrations at the Annual Tree Lighting Event this year. The Historical Society is also discussing the possibility of opening its doors and providing music and/or apple cider at the event.

Commissioner Natoli also introduced the possibility of hosting a lighted tractor parade and inviting the Town Crier to speak was also introduced. He thanked the Commission and commended them for their efforts. The Commission, likewise, thanked him for attending the meeting and speaking.

Selectman, Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman, and Economic Development Commission Chairman Ed Chmielewski thanked the Commission for everything they do and invited them to attend the Bicentennial Committee Meeting this Wednesday, November 20, to discuss collaborating with them for the annual Tree Lighting event, where they plan to close the Bicentennial event. He informed the Commission that First Selectman Lyden and the Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairmen may say a few words at the event to close out the Town's Bicentennial year. In addition, , as part of the celebration, the Committee plans to announce the winner(s) of the Bicentennial Photography/Art Contest. He reiterated his appreciation of the Commission and all of their hard work.

5. Report on the Budget: A. Maziarz

Chairman Maziarz reported that there have been no significant changes to the budget since their last meeting; 10.2% of their fiscal year budget has been expended to date.

With regards to the tennis court repairs, Chairman Maziarz reported that he has spoken with the company and they have agreed to cover any additional damages incurred over the winter months as part of the original purchase order. He plans to receive the agreement in writing. The possibility of requesting that their project be their first scheduled job in the spring and cc'ing his correspondence to the First Selectman and/or Town Attorney was discussed.

All of the sponsors were thanked for hosting a fun and successful Trunk or Treat event for both children and adults this year. The event was attended by approximately 200 children.

6. Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: Agnes Miyuki, interim – see report

Per last month's meeting, yoga classes will begin on Monday, December 2. Because the class will be revolving, virtual punch cards will be offered in 5- and 10-class increments. The first class will be offered free of charge.

A meeting was held with the Recreation Directors for Colchester and Marlborough regarding the possibility of hosting a Regional Summer Concert Series in July/August. Two evening concerts would be held in each town. The possibility of holding the concert at Gardner Lake was raised, but, because the property is owned by the State and due to the recent issues, the concerts will, most likely, be held at the Salem Community Park Pavilion. The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) hosts an Entertainment Showcase each year in February in East Hartford during which numerous bands provide live performances for those in search of bands to play at their events. Engaging the music teachers at Salem School regarding the possibility of forming a School of Rock-type band made up of Salem schoolchildren could be formed for the purpose of opening for the main band was presented. Commissioner Durkee stated the possibility of engaging those students who play at the Pavilion at the beach in East Lyme, as well. Food trucks might also be brought in and people would also be able to have a picnic as they enjoy the music.

Minds in Motion was contacted for a possible class during the Spring vacation. A list of the classes that are offered and their respective prices were provided to the Commission for review and input. Other possible programs include an art and/or dancing class. Commissioner Natoli stated that Dawn Shumbo has stated an interest in hosting art classes for children. The possibility of hosting arts & crafts classes was also discussed.

Other possible future programs include Art Studio Tours and/or a Farm Day/Tours during which artists and farms could open up their studios and farms to the public for a day.

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

8. Unfinished Business

a. Disc Golf: Shawn Callaghan – Grant Update & Capital Option(s)

Commissioner Natoli reported that Disc Golf Consultant Callaghan has created a conceptual layout for the course and has requested permission to mark the ground to indicate the locations of the baskets. The Commission agreed that he may start marking the ground. A Facebook Page, Salem Disc Golf Collaborative, which has 70 likes to date, has been launched and an

Instagram page will also be created. He has also received offers from those who are interested in helping construct the course. A brief discussion was held regarding the funding of the project, which may be done incrementally.

b. Volunteer Field, Forsyth Road: Crossroads

The project, which appears to be at a standstill, was briefly discussed. The town has approved \$45,000.00 in Capital Funds for the construction of the Pavilion – these funds could be re-allocated to another project, with the approval of the Board of Finance. Discussion ensued regarding the continuing need for a Pavilion. At the time the project was presented, the field was being heavily utilized. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. Commissioner Fresco-Hawes recommended inviting Soccer Club President Damon Foster to their discussions in an effort to determine the present and future use of the field.

c. Pickleball/Volleyball Update

While pleased with the very lively and popular pickleball/volleyball games, some ground rules may need to be established for the players. Commissioner Fresco-Hawes will be one of the main contacts for the games. A form has been created for attendees to complete so as to ensure that all of the players are properly informed with any updates. It was clarified that the games are open to adults, ages 21 and over. The possibility of utilizing and setting up the pickleball court in the School's Multi-Purpose Room and setting up an additional volleyball court in the gym was discussed.

d. Rec Basketball Update – Kids & Adults

Chairman Maziarz reported that the basketball season has begun. He will be contacting the former Treasurer of Rec Basketball, who is inquiring about what should be done with their remaining funds. No revenue has been received since they have joined with East Lyme Youth Basketball (ELYB) two years ago. He is planning to hold a meeting in the near future to discuss and receive feedback regarding their partnership with ELYB and determine whether they should continue their partnership.

9. New Business

a. Holiday Tree Lighting – Logistics & Volunteers

- 1) Biodegradable ornament**
- 2) Beverages & Cookies**
- 3) Contact Salem Volunteer Fire Company**

The Tree Lighting event will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. and will be preceded by the Salem Free Public Library's annual Anniversary celebration. The event will include Santa Claus, who will arrive on the Fire Truck, compliments of the Salem Volunteer Fire Company, and entertainment of holiday songs played and sung by Freddie Marion. The Girl Scouts will provide the cookies and the Commission will provide hot cocoa and candy canes. The event closes with the lighting of the tree. Leftover supplies from the Trunk or Treat event, including small water bottles and hot cocoa, will be used for the event. No more than 10 sixth and eighth grade students will be sought to volunteer for the event.

Children will be invited to arrive a half-hour prior to the event to create a biodegradable ornament to decorate the new tree. The supplies will be provided by the Commission.

Chairman Maziarz will contact the Salem Volunteer Fire Company to confirm that Santa Claus will be attending the event.

M/S/C: Natoli/Fresco-Hawes, to approve the allocation of \$200.00 for supplies for the Holiday Tree Lighting event. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

b. Capital Request(s)

Per their previous discussions, the two items on their Capital Items request include the disc golf course and the ice rink. Former Commissioner Doug Morrow is in the process of creating a package with an estimated cost for the ice rink and Chairman Maziarz has determined a rough estimate of costs for a simple Do-It-Yourself ice rink of \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for materials. The bulk of the costs would be for the construction of the rink, e.g., grading, backfill, etc. The possibility of creating a multi-purpose rink/volleyball court was also discussed. Commissioner Natoli also suggested the possibility of including a shed or building to store the equipment. Because the information needs to be submitted to the Board of Finance by December 6, Chairman Maziarz will e-mail the information that he will be submitting to the Board to the Commissioners. He requested that Disc Golf Callaghan's estimate(s) also be sent to him.

c. Set 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule

M/S/C: Natoli/Bleazard, to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Dates for 2020 as follows: January 27, February 24, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21. All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, with the exception of January and February, which will be held on the fourth Monday of the month due to Martin Luther King and Presidents Day holidays. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

d. 59th Annual CRPA Conference & Tradeshow (11/25 & 11/26) at Mohegan Sun

Chairman Maziarz invited any interested members to attend the upcoming CRPA Conference and Tradeshow. Commissioners Bleazard and Fresco-Hawes and Interim Coordinator Miyuki expressed their interest in attending the event on Tuesday, November 26.

10. Future/New Recreation Endeavors

a. Ice Skating Rink – Dig in on the Details – *see above*

11. Adjournment

M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Maziarz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.