

**TOWN OF SALEM  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

*none*

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Maziarz called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 November 18, 2019**

**M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Durkee, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 8-0, all in favor.**

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Item 9(a) Soccer Update was discussed under Item 4, Public Comment/Guests/Correspondence.

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

At the recommendation of the Commission, Chairman Maziarz stated that he extended an invitation to Salem Surge Soccer Club President Damon Foster for his input regarding the status of the program and what, if anything, the Commission could to support the league and to discuss the direction of Volunteer Field at Forsyth Road.

Soccer Club President Foster reported that approximately 65 children from Pre-K to U9 played on the Salem rec teams. The League also had a successful partnership with U.K. Soccer and were able to hire a soccer coach for the entire length of the season. The coach also offered coach's clinics for interested Salem and Montville volunteers, resulting in more individuals willing to volunteer as coaches. Positive feedback was received and the League will be exploring the possibility of hiring a U.K. soccer coach again next Fall. The cost for the U.K. soccer coach was reduced as families volunteered to host the coach during his stay. They hope

to continue to engage more volunteers as the children age up and enroll into the travel team(s); it is hoped that a travel team for each grade will be formed next Spring. The travel teams will focus on the U10 and U12 levels and may be merged with neighboring town(s) should there be an insufficient number of players. He reported that the District stated that those children who wish to play outside of the Town of Salem, may do so, and is expecting that some of those children who opted to play soccer in East Lyme may return back to Salem. It was noted that there were also children who played in Montville and East Haddam.

Open elections were held prior to the onset of the Fall season and the Board voted to maintain the same slate. Currently, there is \$10,685.00 in the Club account. The balance has been reduced a great deal through the purchase of new equipment and the hiring of the U.K. soccer coach. As the result of a merger between CJSA (Connecticut Junior Soccer Association) and Blue Sombrero, there will be no early registrations this coming season as a new website is being created and the information is being transferred.

Discussion ensued regarding the Volunteer Field project. Chairman Maziarz stated that the Commission has been reevaluating the scope of the project. Commissioner Natoli commended Soccer President Foster on the increased number of children taking part in the program. She stated that the Commissioners are also seeking additional uses for the field, including rugby, flag football, and field hockey, making it a vibrant part of the town's recreation program. To this end, they have been discussing the need to provide some form of shelter and facilities. The proposed pavilion was enlarged to 20' x 36' to accommodate a utility/storage room and possible bathroom facilities. In comparison, the Community Park Pavilion measures 36' x 60' and was a base cost \$15,790.00. Soccer President Foster did not feel that a well or septic would be necessary, but did feel that the construction of a pavilion would be useful as it would provide additional options for the use of the field in terms of hosting jamborees and tournaments in an effort to generate more interest in the program. He recommended that the porta-potties be located near the pavilion and electricity be provided. Commissioner Appleby felt that the facility, like that at Community Park, should have a well. The water would be not be potable, but would be treated. Commissioner Appleby will be requesting rough estimates for the well. Chairman Maziarz stated that his goal is to finalize the project by their next meeting so that he would be able to provide a clear presentation to the Board of Finance.

Chairman Maziarz thanked Soccer President Foster for attending the meeting and updating the Commission and discussing the status of the soccer program and the Volunteer Field project.

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

Chairman Maziarz reported that there have been no significant changes to the budget since their last meeting; 12.9% of their fiscal year budget has been expended to date.

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

A total of eight (8) participants engaged in the first (free) yoga class and three (3) have confirmed that they are interested in continuing.

She reminded the Commissioners to keep The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association's (CRPA) Entertainment Showcase in East Hartford in mind should they wish to attend and provide input for possible bands to play at the town's Regional Summer Concert Series.

At their last Regular Meeting, a brief discussion regarding the possible *Minds in Motion* programs for the Spring vacation week was held. The Commissioners felt that a program with a lower age group might be beneficial and agreed to offer *Roller Coasters* for the 8-12 age group and *Chemical Creations* classes for the 6 to 12 year age group.

An invitation was extended to the Commissioners to attend a meeting with their new Skyhawks representative on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. at Town Hall. Commissioner Fresco-Hawes reported that he met the representative at a recent conference who informed him of a sports program with a S.T.E.M. component that they are currently hosting.

**7. Public Works Report: Don Bourdeau – no report**

**8. Unfinished Business**

**a. Holiday Tree Lighting 2019**

Chairman Maziarz reported on a successful Holiday Tree Lighting event and thanked all of the Commissioners for their support. It was noted that the tree was lit prior to the event. During a brief conversation with the Pastor of the Congregational Church, the Pastor proposed the possibility of hosting the event at a larger venue. Discussions may ensue in the near future regarding the possibility of hosting a joint event. He expressed his appreciation to the Rybak's who loaned the use of bells for the event, Fred Marion who entertained the audience, and Santa Claus who arrived on Salem Volunteer Fire Company's Ladder Truck. He proposed limiting the number of student volunteers to five (5) in the future. 3-D Christmas glasses, which turn lights into snowflakes or the like, were purchased and distributed to the children. The Commissioners agreed to host the event on the first Saturday of the month due to conflicts with other local events.

**b. Disc Golf: BOF update**

Chairman Maziarz reported that the proposal for the Disc Golf Course was submitted to the Board of Finance and will be formally presented on Thursday, February 13, along with an update of the Volunteer Field project. The Course is estimated to cost \$23,000.00 for 18 holes and may be completed in increments, if necessary.

**c. Mohegan CRPA Expo/Tradeshow recap**

Chairman Maziarz reported that Commissioner Blezard, Recreation Coordinator Miyuki, and himself attended CRPA's Annual Conference & Tradeshow at the Mohegan Sun Casino. He attended two sessions: *Foundation of a Foundation: Creating a Non-Profit Corporation* and *Revenue 101: The Foundation of a Revenue Management System* and Commissioner Blezard and Recreation Coordinator Miyuki attended *Building Community in an Isolated World* and *Circus Works...for EveryBODY!* Promotional materials, including

possible future programs, water fountains for dogs, score boards, and recreation management software, were passed around to the Commissioners.

Possible future recreation programs gathered from the conference include:

Modeling & Fashion Camp	Airplanes & Magic Program
Peeps in Motion	Black Hall Outfitters
Silver Mill Tours	

Chairman Maziarz also reported that he spoke with Hinding Tennis Courts regarding the tennis court repairs. He requested that they send him an e-mail stating that any additional damage incurred during the winter season would be covered under the original estimate.

**9. New Business**

**a. Soccer update**

- Forsyth Volunteer Field – *see Item 4*

**b. Ice skating rink news**

After conducting some research, Chairman Maziarz discovered that pool companies also install ice skating rinks and gathered rough price estimates. The bulk of the cost would derive from the preparation of the area, including the excavation and grading of the area, and the ongoing maintenance of the rink. Commissioner Appleby recommended speaking with the local Fire Company(ies) regarding the possibility of engaging their services should the rink need to be hosed down. The ice rink would be located at the Salem Community Park Pavilion.

**10. Future/New Recreation Endeavors**

**a. Cooking class**

Commissioner Natoli introduced the possibility of offering a series of cooking-related classes at, possibly, the Congregational Church's Community Center or the Salem Volunteer Fire Company kitchen hosted by the town's celebrity butcher (at Salem Prime Cuts), one or both of Nik and/or Alex Alevras from *Two Brothers Restaurant*, and a local nutritionist. Commissioner Durkee agreed that such a program would be beneficial as she has received requests for the offering of recreation programs for adults.

**11. Adjournment**

**M/S/C: Fresco-Hawes/Appleby, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 8-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem