

OL Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
01/4/24 – 6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting (in person and telephone call-in)
In-person location: Meeting Hall, Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE

In Person: Bob Dunn (Chairman), Ryan Lee, Sara van Vliet, Don Bugbee (Director)

On Phone: Brendan McKeever, Mary Ellen Garbarino, Missy Garvin

Absent: Winnie Edmed, Tim Gavin

Guests: Sheryl Shyloski

APPROVE previous meeting minutes – December 7, 2023

Sara van Vliet moved to accept the meeting minutes of December 7, 2023, and Ryan Lee seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)

Ryan Lee moved to elect officers Chair – Bob Dunn, Vice-Chair - Brendan McKeever, Secretary – Mary Ellen Garbarino. Sara van Vliet seconded the motion. **SO VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RENEW TERMS for PRC Commissioners Mary Ellen Garbarino and Sara van Vliet

Bob Dunn stated that Mary Ellen and Sara’s terms on the PRC Commission will be up on 1/31/2024. He asked that they each send an email to the Selectmen stating that they wish to serve another term on the Commission with a copy to he, Bob Dunn. Mary Ellen and Sara both wish to continue on PRC.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Presented by Don Bugbee

Parks and Rec Programs

Rec-Desk registration is required for all Parks and Rec Programs. All details are listed on Rec-Desk and are advertised on the Parks and Rec website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Adult Basketball

Open Gym Winter Sessions are held at L/OL High School Gym on Wednesdays 6-9 PM and Sundays 10am-12pm, December 17-February 28. No fee for L/OL residents. Non-residents fee \$40. Drop-in fee \$5. To date there are 32 participants registered. There will be alternate dates and times based on the High School Basketball schedules.

Adult Volleyball

Open Gym Winter Sessions are held at the L/OL High School Gym on Thursdays from 6-8 pm. No fee for L/OL residents. Non-residents \$35. Drop-in fee \$5. To date there are 38 participants registered. There may be alternate dates and times based on the High School Basketball schedules.

Winter Youth Basketball

Registration is closed. The program will run on Saturdays, January 13-March 2, 2024. The program is open to Lyme and Old Lyme residents Pre-K (ages 3&4)-grade 5. The sessions will be held at the L/OL Middle School and High School gyms.

As of the time of the meeting, 153 participants are registered as follows:

Pre-K Group 1 (12) / Pre-K Group 2 (16) / Gr K-5 (125).

Parks and Rec Facilities

Town Woods Park, Hains Park, Cross Lane Park and White Sand Beach building facilities are all winterized and closed for the season. The boathouse docks and the kayak launch dock at Hains Park were pulled from the water on Saturday, December 9. A recent walk-thru and facility safety inspection of these facilities was conducted by CIRMA. No update has been provided as of yet.

State of CT Inspectors recently inspected the well and water tank system for the Town Woods Park building. Minor deficiencies were noted at TWP and are scheduled to be fixed.

Public works recently removed large amounts of sand at White Sand Beach in the parking lot by machine, placed it back on the beach and then swept the lot. The accumulation was from recent storms. They then pushed the existing sand on the beach to form berms across the beach in an effort to prevent similar events from happening over the winter.

Summer Staff

The process of establishing the 2024 Summer Parks and Recreation staff has begun.

Staff includes daycamp supervisors, daycamp counselors, lifeguards and parking lot attendants.

OLD BUSINESS

Fish ladder sign for Hains Park

Bob Dunn reported on a meeting that took place at Hains Park with Ellie Czarnowski this morning regarding the placement of the fish ladder at the park. Public Works will install the ladder when weather permits.

Playground

Sara van Vliet moved to approve the purchase of a new playground for Hains Park. The design has been chosen with an approximate cost of \$68,168. Ryan Lee seconded the motion.

SO VOTED.

The question arose as to whether or not a fence around the playground would be needed.

Other Town Enhancements at Hains Park, up-date (sand cleaning machine, dredging, concrete bulkheads for docks/increase swim area, security cameras, goose nuisance consultant, etc.)

Don Bugbee reported on information regarding the purchase of a sand cleaning machine for Public Works use on all Town beaches.

Bob Dunn reported on a meeting with a local dredging company regarding dredging Rogers Lake at Hains Park. This company will send the Town a ballpark cost estimate and they suggested getting an engineer that has expertise in this. This will go out to bid when the time comes.

Concrete bulkheads will be placed with input from the rowers. Use and safety, along with increasing the swimming area will be considered the placement of said bulkheads.

Security cameras will be placed town-wide at some point, but progress is being made.

Sara is still reaching out to find an expert in the field of goose nuisance mitigation and will seek advice from the DEEP.

Budget / Goose Control Line Item(s) \$18,000: Don reported that per the December 7, 2023, PRC agreement, he requested to re-establish the following budget item: \$10,000 Hains Park, \$5,000 Town Woods Park. It was also agreed to add the following: \$3,000 Cross Lane. Total: \$18,000

There was a discussion of adding a couple of handicap accessible picnic tables for the new pavilion at Hains Park. Surface materials were discussed but not determined, along with a discussion on a handicap accessibility path to the playground.

NEW BUSINESS

Fees for Out-of-Town groups for park usage

Don reported that Winnie Bing is working on getting information from other towns about their process and the commission will be kept updated.

Any other new business – None

CORRESPONDENCE

Email had been received mid-December from the president of the OLRA about the placement of bulkheads at Rogers Lake / Hains Park. They are in support of this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheryl Shyloski, a resident of Town spoke to the Commission about the possibility of adding more programs for the kids in Town perhaps to be offered after school. Don stated that he and Winnie Bing had been discussing this and would appreciate Sheryl's input. Sheryl will email Don and they will plan a meeting to discuss ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mary Ellen Garbarino moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM and Ryan Lee seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

The next meeting of this Commission is scheduled for February 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino
Secretary