

**Town of Plymouth**  
80 Main Street  
Terryville, CT 06786  
www.plymouthct.us

PLYMOUTH, CT  
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*Erica Calviya*  
TOWN CLERK

**Plymouth Town Council**

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**Minutes**

**June 24, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled June 24, 2021, Plymouth Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

**Roll Call:** Present for the meeting were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, and Town Councilman John Pajeski. Also in attendance was Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault, and Town Attorney William Hamzy.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Merchant led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor David Merchant stated he wanted to recognize the Terryville High School Industrial Arts Class and Staff for the new Town Council desk, noting it was a wonderful gift for the Town and wanted their work to be noted for the record.

#### **Reading of Legal Notice**

Mayor David Merchant read the Legal Notice into the record as follows: **LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING, Notice is hereby given to the legal voters and qualified taxpayers of the Town of Plymouth pursuant to CGS sec. 7-163e that the Plymouth Town Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on June 24, 2021, in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT, to give citizens an opportunity to hear and or/make oral or written recommendations concerning a lease of the athletic field at 24 Gear Drive, Terryville, CT to the Terryville Youth Soccer Club and concerning a lease of the athletic field at Main Street School to the Connecticut Titans Softball. David V. Merchant, Mayor, Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021, Plymouth, CT**

Mayor Merchant welcomed everyone attending the Town of Plymouth Public Hearing, noting prior to Public Comment he would try to clarify all of the misinformation regarding the Soccer Field at 24 Gear Drive; and provided a detailed explanation of the Terryville Youth Soccer Lease at length.

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Mayor David Merchant stated the Connecticut Titan/Main Street School Field had been taken off the table, noting it was not a good fit for the Town of Plymouth at this time.

Mayor David Merchant provided a brief history on the Town fields, noting their condition was very poor and there was no maintenance on any of the fields except by the volunteers. He further stated Town volunteer Nate Brown has done more for the Town and the community than almost anyone for the field and briefly elaborated.

Town Attorney William Hamzy stated this was a great night for our community because of a group of dedicated volunteers who built an athletic field out of nothing and a group of adults that made it happen. He further stated he wanted everyone present not to lose sight of the fact that the Town field in question cost the taxpayers nothing. Town Attorney William Hamzy noted the goal of this evenings meeting and defined the term "lease" for everyone present. He further detailed the Terryville Youth Soccer Lease in detail and at length.

**To consider and take Public Comment regarding the following: To give citizens an opportunity to hear and or/make oral or written recommendations concerning the proposed lease of the athletic field at 24 Gear Drive, Terryville, CT to the Terryville Youth Soccer Club. David V. Merchant, Mayor, Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021, Plymouth, CT**

Theresa Bilodeau, President of the Terryville Youth Soccer Club, Terryville, stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club was a local, all-volunteer group made up of dedicated town parents and also a registered non-profit 501(c) organization for over 20 years. She further stated she wanted to explain the Terryville Youth Soccer Club's reasoning behind the Lease in question and were looking for the Town Council's support. Theresa Bilodeau stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club would like to work in a partnership with the Parks and Rec Commission and the Town of Plymouth to get the best outcomes for all residents at the new Terryville Lions Club multi-purpose field that is almost completed. She further stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club wanted to use their own funds to invest in and maintain the new multi-purpose field and would be working with the Parks and Recreation Commission to schedule the shared use of the athletic field for all events or programs during all seasons for all Town residents. Theresa Bilodeau stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club would set up an official coordinator who would work directly with the Parks and Recreation Commission and/or Coordinator to make the partnership work for everyone and the Coordinator would make a monthly report to the Parks and Rec Commission at their monthly meetings. She further stated that Nate Brown, had volunteered to organize the construction of this million-dollar project through his Operating Engineers Union, and is looking for ways to continue to make sure the new field does not go to waste. Theresa Bilodeau stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club has donated over \$25,000 dollars for its construction so far and the Terryville Lions Club's has given the most, an incredible \$60,000 worth of donations, noting that countless others have donated countless hours and dollars to help make this project a reality. She further stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club's first priority would be to use their funds to install an irrigation system on the multi-use field and briefly elaborated.

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**Public Comment Cont'd.**

Theresa Bilodeau stated the Terryville Youth Soccer Club wanted to publicly thank the Terryville Lions Club members noting their donations have made this multi-use, community field a reality and that they wanted to make sure the Terryville Lions Club's gracious and thoughtful actions do not die a slow death. She further stated with this lease going forward, the Terryville Youth Soccer Club believes the Terryville Lions Club Recreational Complex will be one of the best in the area.

Patti DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, commented on the Public Hearing Notice.

Vincent Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated everyone involved has done an outstanding job on the proposed field, including the Mayor/Town Council, Dennis Fowler, the Terryville Youth Soccer Club, the Terryville Soccer Club and everyone else deserved praise and everyone who had their hand in it and thanked them all.

Brian Luba, First Vice-President, Terryville Lions Club referenced the Terryville Youth Soccer Lease stated that the Terryville Lions Club understand the current idea behind the lease, and it was not their intent to outright oppose it since they have \$60,000 tied up in the project. He further stated that the Terryville Lions Club wanted to see all the kids and families enjoy the field as soon as possible. Brian Luba stated as an organization they did have abundant concern and objection to some of the verbiage in the lease, specifically section 5; when it comes to who else could use the field other than the soccer club, the words "organizations deemed qualified by lessee" was troubling to us and contradicted the idea of shared use. He further stated the Terryville Lions Club request would be to at least have those words removed from the lease.

Jenna Downs-Scoville, 24 North Street, Plymouth, thanked the Terryville Lions Club, noting how much they do for the Community and spoke in favor of the Terryville Soccer Club Lease for the athletic field at length.

Michael Rinaldi, 24 North Lakeside, Terryville, stated he was in support of the kids and thanked everyone on behalf of the Veteran's.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville, briefly discussed Town protections within the Lease; noted he was in favor of the athletic field and briefly elaborated.

Jason Young, 361 South Eagle Street, Terryville, stated he was a Soccer Coach and cared about the field and the Town and spoke in favor of the Lease at length.

Dawn Alarcon, 104 Mount Tobe Road, Plymouth, stated her child was involved with the Town Soccer, noted that the Town fields were atrocious, spoke in favor of the Lease and noted the Terryville Lions Club was phenomenal.

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**Public Comment Cont'd.**

Dr. Todd Botto, 24 Crestview Road, Terryville, noted he covered sport events, and noted the Terryville fields were the worst he has ever seen, noting the fields take up a lot of time and maintenance, and spoke in favor of the Terryville Youth Soccer Lease and from a medical, professional, family and taxpayer standpoint noted the other Town fields needed improving.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, briefly commented on the Parks and Recreation Department, athletic field Lease, Bristol's non-profits.

Nathan Brown, 20 Sawmill Road, Plymouth, briefly commented on his and the Operating Engineers Union work on the athletic field and their past projects in Town. He further spoke at length regarding all the volunteerism that was done to make the athletic field a reality and urged the Town Council to approve the Terryville Youth Soccer Lease.

Connie Kaprolis, 54 South Eagle Street, Terryville, commented on the Public Hearing Notice.

Gerry Bourbonniere, Plymouth Park and Recreation Commission Chairman and Terryville Lion Club Member, read the following May 20, 2021, Plymouth Park and Recreation minutes out loud for the Town Council and Public audience, noting they reflected the presentation that President Theresa Bilodeau, President Terryville Youth Soccer, gave to the Plymouth Park and Recreation Commissioners at that meeting and briefly elaborated. Minutes as follow: Presentation- Terryville Youth Soccer Club, Terry Bilodeau, President of the Terryville Youth Soccer Club is present at the meeting to discuss a proposal on the Terryville Lions Multi-Purpose Field. She has approached the Mayor and had discussions with Chairman Bourbonniere regarding a joint venture involving the facility. Terryville Youth Soccer Club would like to lease the field as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. They offer to maintain and improve the facility with funds from their club. Their program brings in 15,000-\$30,000 annually. They propose to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission or Director to schedule all future programs. They would hire a coordinator who would make monthly reports to the Commission. They would use their funds to maintain and improve the facility. Their first priority would be to fund and install a sprinkler system at the field. Terryville Youth Soccer Club has already donated \$25,000 to the facility along with the Terryville Lions Club who has donated approximately \$60,000. Their goal is to make sure that the facility is utilized and maintained. They currently have (140) kids enrolled in their program with (5) travel teams. The Board of Education only allows them to use the upper field at Fisher. They ask that the Commission support this proposal which is scheduled for a Public Hearing on June 1, 2021 prior to the Regular meeting of the Town Council. Dennis Fowler has recused himself from discussion on this agenda item. Chairman Bourbonniere received the original lease agreement and has asked the Town Attorney to review and make revisions to the document. Ingrid Green question a proposed "Concession Stand" in the agreement and is concerned about liability issues. Terry Bilodeau advises that liability coverage would be included in the Terryville Youth Soccer Club policy.

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**Public Comment Cont'd.**

Chairman Bourbonniere also states that the Town would probably still have some liability. Dave Alarcon and Maureen Cappetto have no questions or concerns. Rich Schnaars questions who would be responsible for constructing the building; and is advised by Terry Bilodeau that all cost for construction would be covered by the Terryville Youth Soccer Club. Chairman Bourbonniere advises that any construction would need to be allowed under the covenants for the Industrial Park and would need Planning and Zoning and Building approval. He states that initially he was not happy with some of the items in the proposal and some revisions have been made; one item specifically was profit sharing of the facility and sub-leasing which would need Commission approval. We have also added that everything must be coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Director (or Commission acting during the vacancy). He feels that we need to maintain transparency, this is a Town field it was not specifically built for the Terryville Youth Soccer Club. Chairman Bourbonniere recommends that everyone check the Town Website for the time of the Public Hearing on June 1, 2021. MOTION: Dave Alarcon made a motion to accept the lease proposal with revisions/corrections from the Terryville Youth Soccer Club, the motion is seconded by Maureen Cappetto and voted on unanimously.

Gerry Bourbonniere stated paragraph #5 was a concern he had, that should go, no one has the right to sublet a Town field and it should be taken out and briefly elaborated.

Lynn Rugh 24 Prospect Street, Terryville, thanked Lions Club and Terryville Youth Soccer; noted it was her understanding the Town did not have a Parks and Recreation Commission—who heads it.

Reilly Brown, 20 Sawmill Road, Plymouth, stated her father, Nate Brown, worked at the field every day, noting many of her friends utilize the athletic field and thanked the volunteers who built the gardens, adding she, her father and her grandfather helped build the Community Garden, along with Mayor Merchant and Dennis Fowler and they all put a lot into the athletic field and stated the Town fields are not in good shape and she supports giving the Terryville Soccer Club the Lease.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, briefly discussed process for the field.

Ann Marie Rheault, North Main Street, Terryville, stated all the condition of the Town fields are poor—not in good shape and feels the Lease is good because the Terryville Soccer Club will maintain the athletic field and briefly elaborated. She further stated speaking as the Director of Finance, she would need all the accounting involved going forward for this Town asset and briefly elaborated.

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**Public Comment Cont'd.**

Vincent Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, requested everyone in favor of the Lease applaud and let the Mayor and Town Council know how they feel about helping the kids and youth soccer.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, no opposition to youth soccer league, questioned methods.

Town Attorney William Hamzy stated the Public Hearing Notice was printed in the Bristol Press on two occasions and on the Town Website. He further stated he was unsure of the sign at the property and noted it does not serve any purpose—no one lives there, and we will follow up on it.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Town Council Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to adjourn the Plymouth Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Hale  
Recording Secretary