



## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2022

7:00- Senior Lounge - 80 Main St., Terryville, CT

### 1. Call to Order- Please state Date & Time for the Record

The regular meeting of the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order on October 20, 2022, at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere.

### 2. Introduction of New Members/Attendance:

Chairman Bourbonniere introduces new members, John Glorioso and David Downes and welcomes them to the group.

Members in attendance at the meeting include Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere, Dennis Fowler, Rich Schnaars, John Glorioso, David Downes and Parks & Recreation Director Maureen Cappetto.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance – Led by the Chairman.** The Commission observes a moment of silence in recognition of the Bristol Police officers who died in the line of duty.

4. **Fire Exits** – Pointed out by the Chairman.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

#### • September 15, 2022 - Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Dennis Fowler made a motion, which was seconded by Rich Schnaars to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2022, meeting, and the motion passes with (4) members voting to approve and (2) new members abstaining from the vote.

### 6. Correspondence

a) **Julia Pilarski** who was the Basketball coordinator at Fisher, she did a wonderful job running the program, but advises she will not be returning this year due to scheduling issues.

b) **Terryville Youth Soccer Club** – Requested that letter be *read into the record*.

*“We are writing to let you know our displeasure and disappointment with recent derogatory comments made by the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson, Gerald Bourbonniere. We have several confirmed sources who hear Chairperson Bourbonniere at a September G.O.P. event loudly disparage the Terryville Youth Soccer Club and our parent volunteers, who for the past two years, have helped build the new multi-purpose athletic field on Gear Drive. He also recently trashed our efforts at a Terryville Lions Club meeting.*

*We are very upset that a person who is supposed to be supporting sports-based organizations like ours would be so unprofessional in his words, openly degrading and downing our volunteer’s overall efforts. Our club has dedicated countless hours and given over \$40,000 to build the town another space for recreational use and activities. When our board members heard about Chairman Bourbonniere’s negative words and shameful complaints about the way the field was built, and is now being maintained, we were stunned and angered.*

*And that is why we are sending you this letter. We want you to publicly read this so the Commission and the community know we will not stand by and listen to our club's good reputation be dragged through the mud without filing a specific grievance, showing our disgust and displeasure with Chairman Bourbonniere's complete disrespect for what the TYSC has done to help this town.*

*With Tremendous Frustration,*

*The Executive Board – The Terryville Youth Soccer Club”*

- c) **Cheer Program** – Maureen advises Commissioners of a meeting held with parents of the participants of the cheer program regarding information, pictures, etc. that should not be put on social media. Parents were just asked to think about what was being posted and edit if needed – the kids are at a vulnerable age, they are just learning the moves and are at times awkward and uncomfortable. She wanted to express that the participants need to feel safe participating in the program and makes parents aware of the adverse effects of inappropriate media, i.e., bully, etc. The next day, I began receiving multiple text from this parent, I tried to give further explanation as to my concerns and invited her to come into the office to discuss this further. She continued to text expressing her opinions and being confrontational. The discussion continued and went downhill at this point and the parent sent a picture of my child from (3) years ago. The Director is asking this to be made part of the record because she will be making recommendations to change the program for the next session.

7. **Public Participation - None**

8. **Update from TYSC on Terryville Lions Multi-Use Field**

Field was rolled out by a Parent Volunteer, the topography is smooth, flat, and much improved.

Still working on drainage issue in Northeast corner, will be top priority in April 2023.

Hope to blow out the new Sprinkler system – October-November.

Anticipate field to be ready for use in Spring 2023.

Request update of Town website to reflect updated information on the TYSC Executive Board and contact information.

Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere questions whether any of the Commissioners have questions that the Director can bring to TYSC for answers prior to our next meeting.

He also advises that in addition to the drainage problem in the Northeast corner of the field, there is an area on the west side where there is standing water; he has been discussing this with them for over a year. He asks the Director to bring this to their attention so that it too can be addressed.

Dennis Fowler advises that the club has been working with Joe Green on a plan for the Spring.

Chairman Bourbonniere also questions why there are utility flagging on the left side of the field approximately 30 yards from the gate; the Director will investigate.

There are no further questions.

9. **Director's Report**

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Director Cappetto advises that she was contacted by Vickey Nadolski regarding using Lake Winfield again this year for the Annual Maddie Walk, she proposes holding the event on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-12pm.

MOTION: Rich Schnaars made a motion, which was seconded by Dennis Fowler to approve the event and the motion is voted on unanimously.

- Julia Pilarski Resigned as Rec basketball Site Coordinator at Fisher Elementary
- Maddie's walk is being held 11/13/2022 at Lake Winfield
- Yoga – Adult and Chair (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
  - Very popular and well attended so we are offering a shorter session to carry thru the end of year
  - Longer sessions will be in Spring
- Karate – Wrapping up in November
  - Will continue in spring
- Gymnastics – Wrapping up in November
  - Will continue in spring
- Bus trip to Salem – October 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Went great, lots of positive feedback, too many people after the fact said they did not know about you
  - 47 people attended – full bus is 52 – need to stay positive, make sure information is available in other places.
- Movie night –October 22<sup>nd</sup> would love help – please spread the word
  - Would love help – please share on your social
  - Will sell concessions, looking at possibility of hot chocolate but most likely water and soda
- 3v3 –October 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Will choose a better date next time, although we did not get the attendance, we had hoped for all participants gave positive input.
  - Thanks to Gerry for timer and scoreboard
  - Was very well received, great ref, everyone wanted to stay and play more, there was an audience
  - Will have many more participants if I choose a different weekend
  - Will do one again in the Spring
- Cheer – starts in October (Wednesdays)
  - New coach is good but ill so missed last 2 practices.
  - Have had cheerleaders from high school/middle school help at practices, girls love it.
  - Working on better uniform shirts
  - Working on opportunities to cheer at high school games
  - Because of correspondence, we may move to Fisher and not allow parents in. The dance studio does this. Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere asks for the Director's recommendation on this issue. Director Cappetto advises that she did receive one complaint from a parent related to a picture posted on Facebook without her knowledge or permission. David Downes feels that we should develop a formal policy for this program not allowing parents into practices. Not allowing parents/family into practices also allows for the instructors to give better instruction and discipline to participants. We can always set aside one specific day for parents/family to attend a rehearsal to see how far their child has progressed. There is concern that this policy may cause students to drop out of the program. There is general discussion regarding different options, allowing parents to attend the first few rehearsals and then closing them, etc. we could also make a policy that says no pictures. We will allow the Director to use her discretion for the next session, if a similar problem arises a decision will be made, and the Commission will back up the Director. The Commission agrees that the Director managed the issue appropriately.
- Adult Co-ed Slow Pitch Softball – Monday night

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- 3 rain dates so far, only offered Friday to replay, they choose not to reschedule two of the games.
- Titans contacted me and they wanted to us reschedule softball night; I said no as 63 people would need to be contacted to reschedule – Mayor backed me once I explained
- Mayor is on board with renegotiating this with the Titans, They contribute \$1000 per year and expect to be allowed to use it 233 days a year from 5 pm-9 pm on weekdays, and 8 am-5 pm on weekends. They need to understand that the Parks and Recreation events are prioritized over theirs. I also expect to be utilizing the field for Parks & Recreation programs more next year.
- Basketball
- Thomaston adding for 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade with us
- They do not have 6-8<sup>th</sup> but will steer kids who do not make their travel team to our program
- Trying to make them feel not just welcome but part of the program for good of our future program
- Coaches meeting at their school
- Practices and games at our schools
- Thomaston & Terryville coach for each team if possible
- Prices much the same as last year
- Dates are an issue because of February break (2/18 and 2/25)
- May make season 4 weeks shorter or have 2-week break before playoffs

### Future Programs

- Babysitting course – ETJMS afterschool – need to find course instructor – Faye can't, Courtney or Ashley?
- Stay at home course – Fisher afterschool - need to find course instructor – Faye can't, Courtney or Ashley?
- Bus to outlets – moving to December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Chairman Bourbonniere suggests checking with other tour companies on options.
- Comedy Night – January 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Opera House Jeff Dunn is getting us comedians, design posters, send emails to their lists, gave \$25/per person plus online fee
  - Pop-up ice-skating party - will try this before considering purchasing one outright
    - would love help
    - Insurance company says we are covered
  - Bus trip to Christmas play “Christmas in CT” - The Goodspeed with Restaurant attached
    - Others all had symphony music – I do not think it is as popular
  - Snowshoe - Spring
  - Kayak and paddleboard - Spring
  - Lacrosse - Spring
  - Free Movie nights in Spring
  - Fishing Derby with Terryville Fish & Game
  - Archery Classes- Terryville Fish & Game may also help with this

### Senior Events

- Dinner and music at American Legion
- Writing Grant with arts foundation for stand-up improv course, 3-part daytime series with actors, movie days
- Dress rehearsal shows for high school plays, need transport?
- Movie nights – free or reduced snacks
- Advertise at churches
- Working with Franny Swierczynski – old town clerk

### Community Garden

- Work will be performed by Matt Cote; a local Eagle Scout Chairman Bourbonniere reminds the

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Director that gardeners have until the end of the month to clean out their plots.

**Promotion**

- Facebook page and Instagram
  - Its working well to share information
  - 151 people following – programs and outreach will continue to grow the page
- Ad in Plymouth Connection
  - Need to increase budget for next year
  - Will place 2- ½ page(\$265) and 3- ¼ page (\$185) this year
  - Did not care for last ad setup
- Booth at Plymouth Block Party
  - Was worth attending
  - T shirt giveaways?? Old shirts
  - Thanks to Dennis for help setting up Basketball hoop
- Table at School Open Houses?
  - Next year
- I need to post more flyers around town
- Limited to one electronic flyer a month through schools – principal eblast

**Reservoir Walking Paths**

- Gary Delpha cleared and rerouting path around downed trees
- Rainier helped him for Community Service credit

**Plymouth Police**

- Reached out again about “Bicycle Recycle” program – I love the idea- recycle and exercise
- Very receptive, we just need storage
- Public Works is trying to get more storage, they will let us use some if approved
- Would like their help with tire replace, air, small fixes

**American Rescue Plan Act**

- New Tennis court and pickleball courts are move on to Finance Committee for approval to fund
- Other requests will be considered once the ARPA ad hoc committee prioritizes all requests and sees what money is left to allocate
  - Full size basketball court
  - Walking-jogging path at Gear Drive
  - Volleyball courts
  - Dog park

Revolving Fund Request for slide at Veterans Park Playground – would have been tonight - no quorum for their meeting. Chairman Bourbonniere explains the process for using the revolving account to new members.

- Looking at kayak rentals at North Street reservoir – Take a look at [www.rent.fun](http://www.rent.fun)

Board of Finance meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum, but Chairman Jim Kilduff did reach out and ask for the quotes for these projects. The Director will attend the next meeting.

Soccer club water bill agreement payments have begun

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Conflicts of Interest Discussion – The Chairman distributes information related to conflicts of interest for boards and Commissions. Commissioners need to be aware that they should not be contributing information or voting on any topic that could put into question whether their action, judgment and/or decision-making can be considered a conflict. Proper procedure when there is a question of a conflict, the party is usually asked to remove themselves and it is often legally required of them. Any decision that may have been made, could be reversed if it is found that a conflict existed, and the party participated in the decision. Chairman Bourbonniere provides a few examples of when it is appropriate to abstain or should not engage in discussion: He personally in the past could not vote on issues involving the Terryville Lions Club as he is a member; Director Cappetto had to abstain when action was taken on a request for her Basketball program last year. Dennis Fowler does not agree with the definition on Conflict of Interest provided to the Commission. Chairman Bourbonniere advises that this was, what he felt one of the better definitions he found on the internet. Chairman Cappetto points out other parts of the description regarding a Commissioners decision-making process being unbiased if he/she is involved with an organization/event.

Commissioners Comments – Chairman Bourbonniere states he feels our Director is doing a great job.

Rich Schnaars can see a lot of movement in the department and is happy to see the growth.

David Downes is happy with the positive direction the department is heading.

Dennis Fowler – programs, programs, programs, its great to see new programs/events being added.

John Glorioso is happy to see the positive attitude in the department and the positive response from the public. He would love to see our department advance and grow and perhaps be included in future plans for space in a community center, etc.

11. Adjourn

Submitted by,

Pam Pelletier, Recording Secretary