



Plymouth Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2023
7:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

1) **Call to Order – Please state Date & Time for the Record**

Gerry Bourbonniere calls the meeting to order at 7:00 on May 18, 2023.

2) **Attendance** – Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere, Director Maureen Cappetto, Rich Schnaars, Dennis Fowler, Dave Downes, John Glorioso, and Pam Pelletier-Recording Secretary.

3) **Pledge of Allegiance** – Lead by the Chairman.

4) **Fire Exits**: Lead by the Chairman.

5) **Approval of Minutes**:

MOTION: Jon Glorioso made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2023, meeting and the motion was seconded by **Dave Downes**. There is discussion. **Dennis Fowler** advises that Jennie Fowler's name was incorrectly spelled in the **Director's** Report. This is noted for the record. The minutes are voted on and accepted unanimously with the correction noted for the record.

6) **Public Participation**: NONE

7) **Update from TYSC on Terryville Lions Multi-Use Field**

*Terryville Youth Soccer Club Update - Parks and Recreation Commission Update
Thursday - May 18, 2023*

First, we apologize for not having a representative here last month. Spring soccer is a busy season, and all our parents were ... at soccer!

Next, we would like to publicly rebute citizen John Murphy's comments last month. They were inaccurate and incorrect. The Lions Club gave the following monies to the building of the field:

- \$15,000 for fuel for the machines doing construction
- \$15,000 for tree clearing and removal
- \$15,000 for drainage materials including rock and pipe
- \$6,250 for hydroseeding

There was no blank check given and no "promise" of a sign. We are submitting the actual PowerPoint slide our representative used at the Lions Club proposal meeting as evidence. (Attached – please note that a sign is mentioned on the slide).

*Next, we wanted to get your approval for a Kickoff Event on Friday, June 9th at the Lions Club Field. This will be our club's end-of-the-year celebration. We will run soccer events for all TYSC players from 6 to 8 pm and it will be followed up by a free movie night for our players and parents. We know there are several things that need to be filled in on the turf before the building inspector will approve the field for use, but we will get them done as soon as he can show us his issues. All Parks and Commissioners and **Director Maureen** are invited to attend.*

We will plan on a more "formal ceremony" with town dignitaries and contributors like the Lions Club and others in the beginning of the fall season. Hopefully, by then, the Parks and Rec program will have some activities that also can be done on the multi-use field.

Finally, is there any update on putting in a separate water meter for the gardens? With FIVE more large gardens built, that would significantly increase the usage from your side. We are also trying a new irrigating method this year called the "Soak Cycle," which would limit the watering to only three days a week instead of all seven. We appreciate your help and cooperation with the water payment plan, but we also want to make sure we are paying for what WE use. Any update you can give tonight or in an email form would be helpful for our planning.

*One more note ... our treasurer continues to send **Maureen** and the town receipts of work done in the past and present. We have contacted the Lions Club for some paperwork because they directly paid specific workers.*

Parks & Recreation

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Thank you ... hopefully we see all of you at the Terryville Memorial Day Parade 😊

Jennifer Gode

TYSC Executive Board Member

Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere advised that there was a meeting with Mayor Kilduff, **Director Cappetto**, **Dennis Fowler**, and the Building Official Clarence Atkinson. The field was inspected, and they were notified that it failed the inspection. A meeting at the field has been scheduled for next Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 4:15 p.m. with the Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and **Dennis Fowler** to go over areas of concern at the field. The Building Inspector indicated in the meeting that the field was not safe for play due to uneven/unlevel areas throughout the field, there are also drainage concerns and other issues; this means that no one can use the field until all issues are resolved-no practices, no games, no events.

Jen Gode states that the Commission does not meet before their planned June 9th kickoff event; they understand that there are a few things that need to be fixed and question how they will be notified that they can proceed with their plans. **Director Cappetto** advises that as long as all issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the Building Official and the Commission and a Certificate of Use and Compliance is issued, we do not have a problem with them moving forward with use of the field, she can also confirm this by sending an email prior to the next meeting if approval is received from the Building Official.

8) **Program Financials to date:**

Financials are reviewed by the Commission – **Director Cappetto** is aware that there are issues with the reported income and expenses and is waiting for adjustments from the Finance Department.

Director Cappetto is rewriting the Revolving Fund policy and there is general discussion regarding recommended changes. The **Director** explains for Commissioners that are not familiar with the account what it was utilized for in the past.

9) **Directors Report**

Report – May 18, 2023

Current programs and past

- Summer Session of Yoga –Chair (Thursday nights and Wednesday morning) Adult (Wednesday nights)
- Summer Gymnastics registration has started
- Fishing Derby was a success. We will be having a review meeting next week with the Lions club and Fish and game representatives. 92 kids caught 162 fish. Parks and Rec purchased shirts, hats, poles, prizes, and juice boxes.
- Food pantry volunteers built the last remaining beds on the community garden using the grant money from Thomaston Savings bank.
- Community Garden opened on May 1st. Water turned on May 2nd. All beds are reserved

Future Programs

- We have started booking enrichment and field trips for summer camp. We have all positions filled for counselors and have training sessions set for June 21st and 22nd. Highest weeks of enrollment as of today are 42 campers for week 1 and 48 campers for week 7. Lowest week is week 2 (4th of July week) 20.
- Contacted Coach Ramsy from Ct Valley Lacrosse for clinic, Chris Griffin for Spring Softball league and Paws of Love for dog obedience
- Met with Bristol Boys and Girls club collaborate on future programming

Senior Events

- Working with Thomaston Opera to set up events – Movies, ukulele lessons, comedy workshop possible table reading of plays
- Scheduling Build a Burger at Legion, Outside dinner at PAC and another event at Mulligans.
- This month I will be concentrating on making the Senior Lounge a resource center. Once that is set we will have a Welcome back event.

American Rescue Plan Act

- New Tennis court and pickleball courts – Waiting on construction start date – Received a quote from vendor for (4) courts.
- Parks and Recreation was approved, and money has been allocated for \$5,000.00 to rebuild walking path, in addition to the \$8,000.00 for new bobble toys at the playground
- I have a new lead for reviving the bathrooms and if that doesn't work out, we still plan to apply for ADA money to get the bathroom renovated. (not sure how likely) and will still have Community Garden addition was not mentioned at ARPA committee

There is discussion regarding other ways to advertise and boost our programs and services. **Director Cappetto** does not know whether the cost of advertising in the Plymouth Connection is worth it; there does not seem to be as much interest in this publication anymore. Other discussion regarding flyers in area businesses, use of all digital signs that are available, boosting posts on Social Media, etc.

Director Cappetto advised that we did receive approval for our Summer Camp Grant - \$50,000 for each year for the next two years. The Commission recommends investigating expanding our program to include a teen camp. **Director Cappetto** thinks this would be a very well received program if it were possibly offered two times a week for three weeks.

10) Chairman/Commissioners Comments

Dennis Fowler states that he was very happy to see that the Fishing Derby was brought back this year and would like to keep this as a tradition in the future.

Chairman Bourbonniere thanks the **Director** for all of her work in securing the grant for Summer Camp.

11) Adjourn

MOTION: Dennis Fowler made a motion, which was seconded by **Rich Schnaars** and the motion is voted on unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Submitted by,
Pam Pelletier
Recording Secretary