

DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
 Tuesday, August 27, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
 Charlestown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers
 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by Chairman Wood at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Leonard Wood	Chair	Present	
Lauren Classey	Commissioner	Present	
Jill Marie Fonnemann	Commissioner	Absent	
Jodi Frank	Commissioner	Present	
Kerry Gallup	Commissioner	Present	
Frank Glista	Commissioner	Present	
Julie Melvin	Commissioner	Present	
Timothy Quillen	Commissioner	Present	
Gary T. Tedeschi	Vice-Chair	Present	
Lynn Varadian	Commissioner	Present	

Also present: Vicky Hilton, Parks & Recreation Director

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. COMMISSION COMMENTS

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A. Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2024.

VOTE

A motion was made by Commissioner Classey, seconded by Commissioner Glista, to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024, with the correction of Roll Call taken by Vice Chairman Tedeschi not Chairman Wood. The motion was unanimously approved with seven (7) in favor, two (2) abstained and one (1) absent.

Result: Unanimous

Mover: Classey

Secunder: Glista

Ayes: Classey, Frank, Glista, Melvin, Quillen, Tedeschi, Varadian

Abstain: Gallup, Wood

Absent: Fonnemann

6. REPORTS- (NO VOTE NEEDED)

A. Director's Report August 2024

Director Hilton stated she bought lanyards that say, "Troll Patrol". These lanyards will be given to volunteers who want to help with the trolls. Such as, giving directions to people looking for the troll or picking up trash around the park due to the increase of people visiting Ninigret Park.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:

A. Discussion and Potential Action – Converting Tennis courts into pickleball courts.

Director Hilton stated that the idea of converting tennis courts into pickleball courts has been brought in front of the Town Council. The Town Council would like an advisory opinion from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Hilton will write up a memo suggesting that two of the tennis courts be converted into 6 pickleball courts and the existing 2 tennis courts be resurfaced.

It was suggested, to move the tennis courts to a different area of the Park.

Hilton stated that building new courts would be very costly and converting and resurfacing the existing courts would be a better option.

Karen Papa, Janet Wilson and Don Smith, members of the pickleball community, attended the meeting and had written a memo about pickleball concerns at Ninigret Park. The Commission was given a copy of the memo.

B. Discussion and Potential Action – Design for Ninigret Park front entrance. (Island, planting etc...)

Commissioner Glista is working on a new design for the entrance of Ninigret Park. He would like to put this item on next month's agenda.

C. Discussion and Potential Action – Purchase 3 elephants from the Great Elephant Migration. www.thegreatelephantmigration.org.

Commissioner Glista stated these are an amazing display of artwork. He suggested trying to raise money to purchase an elephant or two for the park.

8. APPLICATIONS

Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:

Discussion and Potential Action Regarding the Approval of the Following Event at Charlestown Town Beach/Blue Shutters, including recommendation to the Town Council to Waive §108-4 and §108-5 of the Charlestown Code of Ordinances, Subject to Review of Contracts by the Town Solicitor, receipt of All Applicable Paperwork and Insurance and that All Event Details Are Satisfactorily Met by the Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Event: Wakefield Concert Band Summer Concert**
Dates: Monday, July 21, 2025
Camping: No
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: Waived

VOTE

A motion was made by Commissioner Tedeschi, seconded by Commissioner Frank, to approve the application, with fee waived. The motion was unanimously approved with nine (9) in favor, and one (1) absent.

Result: Unanimous

Mover: Tedeschi

Secunder: Frank

Ayes: Classey, Frank, Gallup, Glista, Melvin, Quillen, Tedeschi, Varadian, Wood

Absent: Fonnemann

Bridget Gilchrist, representing Wakefield Concert Band, attended the meeting.

- B. Event: BSA Troop 16 Westerly, RI**
Dates: September 27-29
Camping: Yes
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: Waived

VOTE

A motion was made by Commissioner Tedeschi, seconded by Commissioner Quillen, to approve the application, with fee waived. The motion was unanimously approved with nine (9) in favor, and one (1) absent.

Result: Unanimous

Mover: Tedeschi

Secunder: Frank

Ayes: Classey, Frank, Gallup, Glista, Melvin, Quillen, Tedeschi, Varadian, Wood

Absent: Fonnemann

9. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:

A. Disc golf update.

Commissioner Tedeschi stated there will be a new member on the disc golf sub-committee and one member will resign. Disc golf baskets will be purchased from the company MVP, directly, no middleman. Signs have been purchased, warning people that there are flying disc in the area for disc golf. Many people looking for the Trolls, walk through the disc golf course which makes for a dangerous situation.

B. Ninigret Park Application and Administrative fee update.

This will be on next month's agenda.

C. Dog adoption/parade/fashion show update.

This event will take place next fall. There was not enough time to put it together.

D. Goatscaping update.

The goats are coming to Ninigret Park on Friday, September 20 and will leave on Sunday, September 22. Families are being encouraged to stop by the area near the soccer fields, and enjoy the goats, hard at work.

E. Sculpture Trail update.

Commissioner Glista is planning on meeting the artist, Ana Flores, in September, to discuss ideas about bringing local artists' artwork to the park for viewing.

F. Heated year-round bathrooms and tennis backboard near tennis/pickleball courts update.

Commissioner Quillen discussed his plan for the bathroom facility. He had a drawing which he explained in detail, including size and usage for the 80 feet by 40-foot building. The building will include space for bathrooms, storage for the Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation summer office and an area for Parks and Recreation to use for summer camp. This building will also include the pickleball/tennis backboard at the end of one section. Commissioner Glista reminded the commission that the Master Plan still has not been approved by the Town Council.

Commissioner Quillen stated he would get more pictures and detailed information and share it with the commission at the next meeting.

G. Parks and Recreation Commission gear for identification, update.

Director Hilton had baseball hats made and handed them out to the commission members.

H. "QR" code update.

Director Hilton stated the QR Code idea is being discussed between the IT department and the treasurer. They need to set it up.

Chairman Wood stated that there are warnings about phishing scams with QR codes that need to be considered.

I. Ninigret Park Master Plan update prior to September 30th Town Council meeting.

Approval of the Master plan is in the hands of the Town Council.

Commissioner Glista reminded the commission that the Master Plan is just a requirement that the federal government gave us to do every 10 years.

10. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

-Director Hilton mentioned that she received a memo from the Town Council, Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee, questioning the consolidation of the Ninigret Dog Park Sub-Committee into the Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission decided that the Sub-Committee should not be consolidated with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

-The Nature Conservancy reached out to let us know that there is a YouTube video featuring the Tarzan Brown Trail in Carter Preserve.

-There was an incident at the breachway last week and our lifeguards responded to it. Our lifeguards have had many saves this season. Many compliments have been reported to the Parks and Recreation Department about the Charlestown lifeguards.

11. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE

A motion was made by Commissioner Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Tedeschi, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Cuddy

DRAFT