



**Borough of Fenwick  
580 Maple Avenue  
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475**

## **Parks Commission Meeting Unapproved Minutes for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

1. Call to order at 9:03PM, Frank Keeney, Margaret Wade, Scott Pulver, Bob Gay, Jeff Champion, and Bruce Baird in attendance.
2. Comments from the public – NONE
3. Approval of minutes from June 17, 2023 meeting – Motion made, seconded, unanimous approval.
4. GM Report – Annual Ticket Holder is being revised; Park Monitor will be working weekends only through October 29<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent's report is folded into each reporting category.
5. Beach & Pier Report –
  - During the summer the pier had some minor damage during a storm. Luckily the ladder that was broken off was not lost and repairs to the ladder and pier were able to be done in-house.
  - Concrete on the pier continues to deteriorate around the speed rail posts. Some patch and sealing work was done this spring in an attempt to prolong the life of the concrete in these areas. We anticipate having to do more repair work each spring in these areas.
  - The water fountain at the pier is in disrepair and needs a full rebuild. The fountains' proximity to sound, low elevation and consistent flooding during storms have contributed to its current condition. Preparations will be made during the sidewalk project to relocate the fountain north of the sidewalk.
  - Beach furniture is still being evaluated but at this point it looks like 6 umbrellas were broken this summer. This is a significant number of umbrellas to have break in a season and higher than the past couple of years. Three of these umbrellas were broken one windy night. We believe we will be able to fix the umbrellas over the winter in house and will not need full replacements, but they are time consuming to fix. A discussion took place about what preventative measures could be taken to make residents/renters/guests aware of the importance of closing umbrellas and tying them down.
  - The replacement playground parts will be installed free of charge this fall/ early winter.
6. Tennis Report –
  - I heard good reviews this season on the hitting wall and overall conditions of the courts.
  - During the season we had to replace a net and set of net posts. The remaining three courts net post are scheduled to be replaced for next season.
  - This off season we will be working with Oval Tennis on master plans for future tennis court rebuild options.
  - The Rehm family water fountain needs to be rebuilt but before this is taken on, we would like to have a master plan for the tennis complex to make sure the fountain is rebuilt in the proper location.

## 7. Golf Report –

- Accolades were given to Matt and the Starters for improving pace of play this season.
- A request was made to close at 4:00PM to residents only on the Thursday before Labor Day.
- This fall we will be tackling the rebuild of the 8<sup>th</sup> tee box and 4<sup>th</sup> white tee box.
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> tee box will remain the same sqft and general shape. The large juniper row will be removed to allow for more airflow to the box and the cart path will be pushed over to this area. We will attempt to find and remove what I believe is a buried decaying stump in the rear of the box. I believe an old stump was not properly removed last time the box was worked on and is the cause of the large depression in the rear of the box.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> white tee box will drop 2-3' in elevation. This will allow the box to be properly shaped/aligned again. Lowering the box will also make walking to and from the tee surface easier for golfers. The sqft will also be restored to what it was before the road construction project.
  - Scott will be reaching out to the landscape committee to get any input they may have regarding both projects.
- Over the summer we have been working with the Boroughs coastal engineer and golf course architect to see what options we have for rebuilding the 4<sup>th</sup> water shot. Plans of slightly realigning the retaining wall to aim the wall with the line of play without losing any sqft are being discussed with DEEP.
- Greens aeration and overseeding is complete along with tee aeration and overseeding. Fairway aeration and overseeding has also been completed. Next up we will work on aerating and overseeding weak areas in the rough.
- Due to the increase in cart traffic on the course, high traffic areas are starting to show significant wear. Going forward these areas will need more attention to try and keep them healthy. This will include overseeding with more traffic tolerant grass varieties, more aerating, more fertilizer apps and rerouting traffic in the off season. Next fiscal year we will ask for an increase in the chemical budget to include a couple of plant health sprays to these areas as well.
- At this time, it looks like only two trees will need to be removed on the golf course. One tree is located between the 7<sup>th</sup> green and 8<sup>th</sup> fairway. This tree has been declining for years and has finally died. The tree closest to it is also declining rapidly and we anticipate it too will need removal in the near future. The second tree is a white birch between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fairway. This tree has suffered multiple limb failures, is declining and brings little value to the course. Bob Gay will inform LPLT that the trees are being removed.

## 8. LPLT Report –

- Mugwort spraying and seedhead mowing efforts were increased this summer and were planned to continue this fall but unfortunately staffing shortcomings will slow our efforts from being as aggressive as we had hoped.
  - Mile A Minute vine “MAM” control has been ongoing all summer. Numerous hours have been spent hand pulling and bagging vines in combination with herbicide applications. Scouting efforts have unfortunately found MAM growing outside of where MAM was originally thought to be isolated too. Just recently we found three more larger patches spanning from the Esposito house down to around the Baird property. These patches have been sprayed and we hope to find time to get out collect the vines and seeds. Collected vines and seeds are put in garbage bags and disposed of at the dump.
  - This winter if the weather and staffing allow, we will work on relieving trees and shrubs of vines in areas that have not had this done in many years.
9. Tennis Court Reconstruction Conversation –
- With a likely substantial repair/maintenance project forthcoming to the tennis courts in the next few years, we are working with Oval Tennis (who is our new tennis court contractor) on options ranging from resurfacing to a total rebuild.
  - Distance between courts, irrigation including a hydroponic watering system, surrounding fencing, funding, redesign of grandstands and parking area near Fenwick Ave are all being reviewed for input from residents.
10. New Business –
- a brief discussion was had about the possibility of acquiring the Inner Lighthouse and how having available funds for that could impact Parkland projects.
  - a discussion was had regarding next year’s golf course rates, members to return to Frank Keeney their ideas for golf course rates in 2024 by the end of October.
11. A motion for adjournment at 10:05AM, seconded, unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Champion, General Manager