

HARTFORD PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES

5:10 pm | *Meeting called to order by* David M. Crocco, Jr.

Commission Members In Attendance

David M. Crocco Jr. (presiding), Allison Childs, Nikki Boyle

Commission Members Absent

Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary

Others in Attendance

Mary Erdei, Selectboard liaison, Scott Hausler, Director, Joseph Denny, visitor – potential Board Member

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nikki Boyle. Seconded by: Allison Childs

In Favor all Opposed

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report *

Scott introduced Joseph (Joe) Denny who sat in for the meeting. Joe is contemplating joining the Board. Joe is a long-time resident of the Town of Hartford. He has a degree in Parks & Recreation. Joe has coached soccer and tennis for the high school. Joe's current position is Operations Manager for Habitat for Humanity in White River Jct.

Scott reported:

- Winter programs are winding down
- Red Zone 5K went well with 140 finishers. There was a small challenge that the route needed to be altered due to the bridge on the bike trail. It was discovered that the bridge was unsafe due to some rot that was discovered and was required to be closed. The route for the 5K was re-directed to Route 5 and then back on the path.
- The Valentines dance went very well.

- RFP's for the Lyman Park are boiling down to timelines. A group has been formed that understands the needs for the playground and will listen to proposals from vendors/contractors on February 26th and the 28th.
- Fishing Derby has been moved to March 2nd at Dewey Pond. It is still to be determined if the weather will allow for the event.
- A beautification project is underway with an estimated \$30K in seed funds for planters, a contract vendor or hire a master gardener. This is separate from the garden club.

Old Business

Further discussions of the questions for the rec center survey. Nikki Boyle made a motion and Allison Childs seconded it to approve the questionnaire as amended.

Discussion for the timing of release of the questionnaire and to whom it would be sent to. One possibility is a random sample to be sent to those on the voter checklist. The survey could also be sent out to those already with the rec department, school district, and a post card sent out to Town of Hartford residents with a link to the survey on the website.

New Business

Administrative Manual Review was moved to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

March 14th, 2024 Town of Hartford Municipal building

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by:

Nikki Boyle Seconded by: Allison Childs

All in Favor: all

Opposed: None

Adjourned at: 6:06 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Allison Childs



Date: 2.15.2024

Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission Members

Chair: David M. Crocco Jr. (7/25/2024)

Vice Chair: Allison Childs (04/04/2025)

Clerk: Tom McCleary (03/08/2024)

Member: Brett Mayfield (05/16/2025)

Member: Nikki Boyle (04/04/2025)

Vacant: (2 positions)

**Parks & Recreation Department
Significant Activity Report
Friday, February 16, 2024
Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director**

Program and Park Highlights

- The Department had to postpone the 21st Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby. The State Fish and Game was at Dewey's checking ice depth for their Fishing Clinic as part of our event. They cancelled due to the excess of white ice which is the top layer of snow/ice and depth of black ice which is the solid ice below. The thickness was below normal and provided uncertainty of depths across the pond, so we decided to postpone until March 2nd. We hope for colder weather, so we are able conduct the event.
- Discussion is taking place regarding the Emerge Building at Maxfield. Demolition needs to occur. The Parks & Recreation Department is researching uses of the building footprint to determine what could potentially fit the location.
- The Department is working on a new facility use and maintenance document primarily for the users of the skinned fields at Maxfield. The document will identify proper procedures for use of the fields and the required care needed for users that will be responsible for opening and closing the fields during use.
- This past week was the last week of our youth basketball programs.
- The Ledyard RedZone 5K was held on Saturday, February 10th. We had a great turnout with 140 runners finishing the race. The course route was changed due to the pedestrian path bridge being closed. The Department wishes to thank Hartford Fire and Police for assisting us with the race. In addition, the Upper Valley Medical Reserve was on site to assist us and several key volunteers that made the race successful. Sponsors included Ledyard National Bank and Casella Waste Management.
- February 10th we also held a youth Valentines Dance at Dothan brook School with over 80 in attendance. The dance was from 6pm to 8pm. A photo booth, music and refreshments were provided.
- The Department is preparing for the February Vacation Camp scheduled for February 19th through the 23rd. We have 30 signed up for the program. Activities being planned include a trip on Thursday, skating at WABA and a variety of activities with music, sports, outside time, arts, crafts and more.
- Staff continue to work on the Spring and Summer Program Guide which will outline all the programs and special events being scheduled. This season will be the Departments 50th year as an official Parks & Recreation Agency in the Town of Hartford. Many of our events and programs will highlight our 50th year anniversary as an agency.
- WABA continues to be a busy operation as we come close to the end of the skating season. Over the past two weekends of public skating we sold 347 daily skating passes, 61 members used the rink, 14 pairs of skates were sharpened, and we rented out 137 pairs of skates.
- A user survey for WABA was created and will be going out to groups soon. The survey is specific to customer satisfaction.

- The Parks & Recreation Commission will be approving at its next meeting a public sentiment survey related to the development of a new community center for the Town of Hartford. The survey will be sent to our database and available on-line for the public to take and provide their input.