

# HARTFORD PARKS & RECREATION MINUTES

*Date | time* 11/13/25/5:05 pm | *Meeting called to order by* David Crocco Jr.

## Commission Members In Attendance

David M. Crocco (presiding), Joe Denny, Erin Wetherell, Brett Mayfield, Tom McCleary

## Commission Members Absent

Nikki Boyle, Allison Childs

## Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director, Jon Bouton Town of Hartford resident

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Erin Wetherell . Second by: Joe Denny

In Favor All Opposed None

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved

## Citizen Comments

Jon Bouton spoke to the idea of building a pizza oven in the Lyman Point area. Pizza oven could be used by the public for baking pizza. Scott mentioned that pizza oven idea could be included in Park Architect's design ideas for park improvements. There is a balance of funds remaining from the contract for Park Architect's design work of the Lyman Point Park project which could be used to include a pizza oven. There is much work to be done to get to a final design proposal.

Scott mentioned other changes to the park that could be made such as demolishing the band stand and removing the side drive to Municipal Building. Band stand could be moved to a different location. Removal of band stand from present location would open up a view to the underpass access to the other side of Lyman Point and also enhance views to the White River. Removing the drive along the river side of the Municipal Building would give a greater buffer between the river and the Municipal Building.

Alternate funding sources to pay for Lyman Point project will be pursued, such as The Jack Byrne fund.

Scott mentioned that a pizza oven already exists on the Hartford High School's sports field, in the area of the concession stand next to the football field.

*A motion was made by Brett Mayfield* and seconded by Joe Denny that consideration should be given for including a pizza oven in the plans for the Lyman Point Park Project. All in favor. Motion passed.

Joe Denny commented that there is much to be considered about a pizza oven, such as will it be open to the community to do private events, fire hazard, could a child get into oven, who provides the wood to fire the oven, etc.. Other communities that have pizza ovens and that Jon Bouton will contact are Woodstock, Norwich and Hartland.

Brett stated that use of the pizza oven could be done on a permit basis. Anyone from the public wanting to use the oven would have to obtain a permit.

It was mentioned that the pizza oven could be fired in the winter and might provide a draw to the parks for that time of year.

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## Commission Member Comments

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None

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## Directors Report

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See Directors Report(s) – Dana from the Environment and Energy department helped in looking at WABA’s (Wendell A. Barwood Arena) heating and insulation for addressing the condensation problems within the facility.

A Wilder historic marker and patio area has been installed in the Kilowatt South park area. This project was spearheaded by residents Harry Kendrick, Phil Sargent and Bonnie Arnold.

A new TV has been installed in WABA to announce locker room assignments and to advertise coming events.

The Trunk or Treat Halloween event went very well, with around 700 participants.

After school programs are up and running and doing very well.

There was a Family Bingo Night on November 4<sup>th</sup> with around 50 participants.

Registration for youth basketball is closed.

Concrete has been poured to provide the foundation for a monument in Veterans Park.

There were no Committee Liaison Reports

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## Old Business

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Community Center Survey – Joe Denny asked if data from survey has been further analyzed and are there any conclusions, etc.. Scott stated that it is intended that a Community Center project be included in the Parks and Recreation’s Master Plan. The Community Center is already in the Master Plan for the Town

Commission members should continue thinking about names of people who could be influential in advancing the prospect of a Community Center. Dave asked that each Commission member provide a name for someone who could be a project Kick-off person and names of 5 people who might support this project either with time or money.

Scott suggested that if a new Bugbee Senior Center is built, consideration should be given to including the Community Center in the design of the new Senior Center.

There was some discussion about how the Bugbee Senior Center is financed. The Senior Center is owned by the Town of Hartford and the Town does do a special appropriation to the Center. However, most of the Senior Center’s funding comes from the Council on Aging.

Brett stated that there is substantial data that shows there is significant enhancement to the lives of people using a senior center when it is included with physical fitness, youth centered activities at the same location.

Joe suggested that a virtual tour of other communities' community centers might be a good way for Commission members to get ideas for a Town of Hartford community center. Scott thought it important that commission members and people involved in design of the Town's community center have a good appreciation of what residents of the town want in a community center.

Brett brought up idea of having a student representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Brett thought it would be best to have a junior year student. Scott said he will contact someone at the Hartford High School about this idea.

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### New Business

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No new business.

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### Next Meeting

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12/11/25, 5 pm. Meet at Municipal building.

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### Adjourn

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Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Dave Crocco Jr. 6:03 pm

Seconded by: \_Joe Denny\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: \_\_\_\_\_All\_\_\_\_\_

Opposed: \_\_\_None\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by: \_Thomas McCleary\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8/14/25\_\_\_\_\_

### **Hartford Parks & Recreation Commission Members**

Chair: David M. Crocco Jr. (4/1/2027)

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

Clerk: Tom McCleary (03/08/2027)

Member: Brett Mayfield (05/16/2025)

Member: Nikki Boyle (04/04/2025)

Member: Joeseph Denny (03/11/2027)

Member: Erin Wetherell (01/23/2027)

*Selectboard Liaison: Ashley Andreas*

