



Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, September 3rd, 2019 / 6:00 p.m.
Sparkle Lake Service Building

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Diana Quast, Vice Chairperson Al Avitabile, Matt Talbert, Patrick Cumiskey, Joe Falcone, Jim Martorano Jr., Patricia Caporale, Rick Romanski

Commissioners Absent:

Also Present:

Kyle Thornton, Acting Superintendent of Recreation

Guests: Al French (YYSC), John Campobasso (YAC), Jane & Walt Daniels (Trail Conference), Lynn Withers (Resident – Pickleball Club)

- **Call to Order 6:11 p.m.**
 - Chairperson Quast called the meeting to order.

- **The reading of the minutes and approval of minutes was tabled.**

- **Public Comment**
 - None

- **Liaison Reports**
 - Al French, YYSC, gave a report on their Labor Day Tournament thanking the Parks & Recreation Departments for their help. Stated the Fall season is underway and that he made some upgrades to the soccer nets at Granite Knolls by adding wheels to some.
 - John Campobasso, YAC, gave a reports that fall sports have begun and that things are good on their end. Mr. Campobasso stated that there are a number of people using Granite Knolls at all hours of the day and would like to see that resolved. The Commission is going to look into what else can be done to keep people off the fields without a permit. Mr. Campobasso asked for an update on Legacy. Commissioner Talbert gave an update as to where the pipeline was in their progress and that they are working on cleaning up and have some trees that need to be planted. Commissioner Talbert stated that once the pipeline says they are done, the town will received no more money and the park is back in full control of the town.
 - Jane Daniels, NY/NJ Trail Conference, gave an updated as to their projects including fixing some of the trails at Granite Knolls that were moved when construction started and discussed having a meeting with Acting Superintendent Thornton to find a new location for the Kiosk that was removed. Vice-Chair Avitabile asked about updated Maps. Mrs. Daniels stated they are working on updating them with the new trails.
 - Jim Puglisi, YAC Baseball, was given the floor to ask about the Gazebo and if it could be rented at Granite Knolls. The Commission said it is still being worked out. Vice-Chair Avitabile stated there is a major issue with Geese right now at Granite Knolls and ideas are being thought of on how to remove them. Commissioner Cumiskey gave some ideas including purchasing a Squawk Box.

- **Mohansic Trailway (Moved up in the agenda)**

- Jane Daniels, NY/NJ Trail Conference, approached the commission to ask that the Mohansic Trailway be dedicated Park Land. Discussion ensued about the Trailway and who would maintain it as the Parks Department can't take it on. An agreement was mentioned that the Trail Conference would maintain the Trail moving forward regardless if it is Park Land or not. Walt Daniels stated that the agreement between the town and the Trail Conference is that either group can pull out of the agreement at any time. Jane Daniels gave a summary of the Towns involvement. Chairperson Quast made a motion to move forward with making the Mohansic Trailway Park Land, seconded by Commissioner Falcone with all in favor except Commissioner Cumiskey who is worried that when Walt & Jane Daniels step down from the Trail Conference at some point then the burden of the trail will be left on the shoulders of the Parks Department.
- **Pickle Ball Courts (Moved down in the agenda)**
 - Lynn Withers, Resident & Pickle Ball Club Member, spoke to the Commission about her experience at the new Pickle Ball Courts at Granite Knolls. The Pickle Ball Club donated the center fence and would like to run tournaments there to raise monies for additional add-ons in the future. The Commission brought up the fact that the Club isn't a recognized group yet by the town, however, they would like to see them become a true club with a 503c so that they can raise monies. Discussion ensued about what they need to do to become a true sponsored club, but they were recognized that they have done a lot for Pickle Ball. Ms. Withers, gave the Commissioners a copy of some rules that were posted but would like the Commission to finalize them and have signs made up. Discussion ensued about the rules and they along with the Clubs sponsorship will be a continued discussion moving forward.
 - During the discussion, Chair Person Quast took the time to introduce the new incoming Superintendent Jim Martorano Jr who will begin on September 9th, 2019.
- **Community Solar**
 - Community Solar gave a presentation on adding Solar Car Ports in the parking lot at Granite Knolls and Legacy. Discussion ensued about the benefits and timeline. The Commission was interested and the New Superintendent would like to see how they look in Mt Kisco (Which are currently building these) before moving ahead in discussions.
- **Homeland Towers**
 - Homeland Towers gave a presentation on building cell phone towers on Park Land. Handouts were given out to show three possible locations: The Rt. 9 Golf Course, An area next to Crystal Lake and Turkey Mountain. The commission liked the area next to the Golf Course and would back the project as long as there is a benefit to the Parks & Recreation Department, otherwise they would not be in favor of a tower going on Park Land. Discussions will be on hold until the Commission finds out if monies can go directly to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Superintendents Reports**
 - Acting Superintendent Thornton gave an update on Camps, Pools, the Eagle Scout Project at Sparkle Lake, Fall Softball and Registration. There were no questions or comments.
- **Tennis/Pickle Ball Passes (Moved down the agenda)**
 - Vice-Chair Avitable made note that a large number of Pickle Ball players entered the room and wanted to give them the floor. Discussion took place between those who belong to a Pickle Ball Club and those who just want to play and not be part of the club. Rules were a major issue and Vice-Chair Avitable stated that only the commission can set the rules but input is welcome from anyone and ended the conversation.

Old Business/New Business

- No Bills have been sent out for lights at Granite Knolls usage. Acting Superintendent Thornton stated that these are being worked on, however, with losing half our staff in the office it delayed the bills.
 - Commissioner Talbert wanted to discuss charging the schools rental fee's for using the turf fields. Discussion ensued and was tabled pending meetings with the schools to go over fees.
 - Discussion about all fee's ensued and the commission agreed that all field fees for recreation programming, local clubs, non-resident organizations, schools and travel programs need to be looked at further.
 - Discussion about residents and non-residents jumping on the fields without permits ensued due to fear over who is responsible for covering them should someone be injured. It was mentioned that they would be trespassing and aren't covered by anyone. Discussion ensued about signage.
 - New Club Rental Rates were discussed. Mr. French stated that those need to be considered by June 1st as every club does their budget for the new year by then and new fee's would need to go into effect January. However, he does not feel rate hikes to the clubs would be fair.
 - The watering of town trees and flowers was discussed and questions as to why the Parks Department needs to be responsible for items that aren't parks related. Commissioner Talbert stated this is a huge issue that needs to be looked at.
 - Commissioner Talbert said the Parks Department Fleet is rotting away and needs to be replaced. Acting Superintendent Thornton stated one new truck was purchased and he is hopeful another will be bought in 2019. He will work with the new Superintendent for 2020 to purchase additional trucks. Commissioner Talbert asked the Commission to go to the Town Board to inform them of the issues with the Parks Fleet.
 - Commissioner Romanski stated that the Commission should meet in the summer months to make sure months of issues do not get piled up on. Commission will discuss at a later date and the topic was tabled.
- **Adjourn**
 - Vice-Chair Avitable motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Martorano, with all in favor. Meeting closed at 9:33pm.