

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, March 6th 2025
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson John Campobasso, Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Christine Dunn (arrival at 7:02PM) Alternate Commissioner Antonio Galvao

Also Present: Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout (arrival at 8:03PM); James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Susan Siegel, Councilwoman

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Dunn

Chairperson Talbert calls the meeting into closed session at 6:45PM.
Commissioner Joe Falcone makes a motion to close the closed session at 6:58PM.

Chairperson Talbert calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Blackberry Woods Playground:

Superintendent Martorano requests the Commission to remove the previous postponement of \$50,000 in Trust and Agency funds allocated to replace the Blackberry Woods Playground.

Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey makes a motion to unpostpone the previously approved motion to spend \$50,000 on the Blackberry Woods Playground. Vice Chairperson John Campobasso seconds the motion. Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Campobasso and Commissioner Falcone all vote in favor of the motion. Commissioner Christine Dunn abstains. Motion passes.

The Veteran Memorials Circle – Garden Club: 08:00-31:00

The Garden Club provides the Commission an update on Phase 2 of the beautification project of The Veteran Memorials Circle.

Approval of the Minutes from December 5th, 2024, January 2nd, 2025 and February 6th, 2025: 31:00-35:00

Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey makes a motion to approve the December, January and February minutes. Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Campobasso and Commissioner Falcone all vote in favor of the motion. Commissioner Christine Dunn abstains. Motion passes.

Hunterbrook Fields Discussion: 35:00-58:00

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission that during the process of expanding the parking at Hunterbrook Fields, a couple neighbors reached out with concerns of creating this parking lot regarding visibility to their property and wanted us to halt construction of the parking lot, which we did so. Until he has further information and guidance from the Commission, the project will remain halted until we go through the appropriate steps.

Superintendent Martorano and the Commission discuss the project and next steps.

Heather and Will Terhune, 2422 Susan Court: The Terhune Family discuss concerns with the parking lot, use of e-bikes and ATV's in the park and location of the porta-potty with the Commission and Superintendent Martorano. Heather Terhune states they were not notified of the work planned for the park. The Terhune Family questions if a wetlands permit is required for the work being done.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission and the Terhune Family that he received confirmation from the Town Engineer that a wetlands permit is not required for the maintenance work completed. If they were to do any work within the stream, the permit would be required.

Superintendent Martorano proposes natural screening using giant thuja trees between the park and the neighbors' property.

Chairperson Talbert informs the Terhune Family of additional plans for the park, including a gravel pad for the porta-potty, fencing, and irrigation.

Chairperson Talbert apologizes for not reaching out to the neighbors informing them of the work being done at the field.

Commission recommends Superintendent Martorano continue leveling the new parking area and order trees for natural screening.

Public Comment: N/A

(Commissioners Diego Jaramillo and Christine Dunn leave the meeting at 7:58PM)

Sensory Garden Update: 58:00-1:08:45

Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission an update on the sensory garden committee's last meeting held on February 20th. He has received numerous quotes for various aspects of the project.

(Town Board Liaison Haughwout enters the meeting at 8:03PM)

Diane Dryer: Licensed Landscape Architect, worked for the NYC Parks for 20+ years. Was asked by Diana Quast to draw a sketch.

Senior Advisory Board: 1:08:50-1:10:08

Joe Falcone informs the Commission of the upcoming Senior Advisory Board meeting on March 14th at 1:00PM.

Town Board Liaison Report: N/A

Superintendent's Report: 1:10:25-1:30:55

Superintendent Martorano provides updates including Spring/Summer Brochure, Hope Garden, rebuilding Junior Lake Pool gate booth, TV screens at pools to display rules, trimmed

back branches at various parks, lacrosse nets have been replaced, built office at Granite Knolls, replaced all cracked/broken garbage cans.

Met with pool engineer and sent the recording of the meeting to Town Supervisor Ed Lachterman and Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout for review. Result of the meeting included 3 options within the bid. Bidders will be able to respond to the options they can provide.

Early April meeting with NYS Parks in regards to the grant for the Route 202 Fields.

March 22nd: meeting with grant writer.

Town Board Liaison Haughwout in regards to Rt. 202 and accessibility grants. 1:19:12-1:30:38
Vice Chairperson John Campobasso provides backstory with the Rt 202 field drainage concerns.

Chairperson Talbert suggests a walkthrough of the field.

Liaisons Report: 1:30:55

Mike McDonald, NY/NJ Trail Conference

Asks for a Sylvan Glen culvert update. Superintendent Martorano states they are still working on it.

Superintendent Martorano informs Mike McDonald on the Blackberry Woods trail between playground and tennis/pickleball court in need of attention, which would be a good project for a Boy Scout/Eagle Scout.

Commissioner Cumiskey asks about the Tall Timbers trails. Mike McDonald informs that there is project to add gravel to the steps. Superintendent Martorano adds that there have been no recent complaints in regards to the trail system.

Tom Regan, YAC 1:34:15

Asks about adding clay to Chelsea and Downing park softball fields. Superintendent Martorano states to send him an email and he will discuss with the Parks Foreman.

Informs the dugouts at the Rt 202 ballfields are swampy. Superintendent Martorano asks him to include that in his email along with pictures and he will discuss with the Parks Foreman.

Murphy Tournament: May 30-31 and may need to utilize the 202 fields.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission and attendees that he has scheduled a meeting with TurfTank on March 14th at 8am. The device uses gps to line the fields.

New Business: 1:39:35-1:52:20

Vice Chairperson Campobasso states we should turf the Rt 202 ballfields.

Vice Chairperson Campobasso informs the Commission that the backstops at Woodlands and Chelsea are decrepit and should think about replacing.

Superintendent Martorano reads aloud an email from the neighbors of Blackberry Woods.
1:40:55

Vice Chairperson Campobasso asks for clarification on the Granite Knolls field banner process. Superintendent Martorano clarifies that there is an annual fee for displaying the banner.

Superintendent Martorano and Vice Chairperson Campobasso discuss a field scheduling issue.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission he is looking into a temporary turf product, called EZ Field by Field Turf for the Shrub Oak Park Roller Hockey Rink. Plan to meet with a rep and get a quote.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission of the location change of the Half Day Camp from the Grange Fairgrounds to St. Patrick's School. In the process of implementing the change.

Old Business: 1:52:20-2:08:40

Commissioner Cumiskey asks if the Capital Improvement Plan has been presented to the Town Board and Planning Board. Superintendent Martorano states that it is scheduled and that he will share the changes to that plan with the Commission.

Commissioner Cumiskey asks for an update on Granite Knolls pickleball. Superintendent Martorano states the plan is still open by Memorial Day.

Commissioner Cumiskey states the updated map of park property is missing Holland Sporting Club/Rock Hill Park. Would like the park improvement to be back on the Commission and Department's radar. 1:55:28

Chairperson Talbert informs the Commission that Sparkle Lake playground is next on the list for replacement.

Town Board Liaison Haughwout informs the Commission that she is working with an investor interested in a revitalization project of the Sparkle Lake area that will be presented to the Commission when ready. 1:58:50

Superintendent Martorano provides an update on the lighting at pickleball courts. Currently has not received a quote from Hanover Electric to do the work. Running out of time to put a bid out for the work should Hanover Electric not be interested. 2:04:25

Commissioner Cumiskey makes a motion to close at 9:08pm. Vice Chair Campobasso seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Meeting closed.