



**Town of Westport
Parks & Recreation**
WESTPORT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Longshore Club Park, 260 South Compo Road
Westport, CT 06880

November 19, 2012

The Westport Parks and Recreation Commission held a meeting in Town Hall, room #201/201A at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Andy Moss, Chairman; George Franciscovich; Stuart Rogan; and Steve Axthelm Commission Members; Stuart McCarthy, Director of Parks and One(1) members of the general public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Stuart Rogan, seconded by Mr. Steve Axthelm, the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of October 15, 2012 were unanimously approved.

2. Update from Friends of Westport Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Fred Hunter reported that they were wrapping up the bookkeeping from the Halfway House project before the end of the year.

Mr. Moss - Mr. Jeff Mayer was looking at possibly having a fundraising event as a way to try and recognize people who are actively engaged in Parks and Recreation. This would be a way to build awareness to the Parks & Recreation. The monies would be used for just basic operating costs for Friends of Westport Parks and Recreation.

3. Discussion of damage and cleanup from storm Sandy.

Mr. McCarthy gave an overview of the damage from storm Sandy. We are still in the process of assessing damage throughout the town. Not including the shoreline we probably had a half dozen trees come down in different places. Most of the damage was in the beach area. In Longshore Park we had severe flooding. The bigger concern with the golf course now is the impact with the salt water on the greens. The water completely or partially covered the 16, 17, 10 and 13 greens. The golf course was inundated with fresh water for several days to try and clear the salt water away. We will find out in the spring what the results will be in hopes that everything will be okay.

Elsewhere in Longshore at the marina there was some minor damage to the floating dock system. T-head did sustain some damage. The seawall at Longshore was damaged but can be fixed.

The work that had been done after storm Irene, the wall at Longshore, wall at Compo Beach and the boardwalk at Compo Beach all held up very well in this storm.

Throughout Longshore Club Park the landscape cleanup is very extensive. The lawn area around the sailing school and the pool needs to be completely redone, and the park next to Old Mill Beach, Compo Beach through to the softball field.

Buildings - We had water in the marina building at Longshore, water in the Ned Dimes Marina Clubhouse, marina building at Compo Beach and the camp building at Compo. All of those buildings have been emptied out and professionally cleaned with a restoration company and are being assessed for the damage.

The property damage is relatively limited, we lost some furniture.

Beaches - Compo Beach there was some limited damage to the seawall we are getting some estimates right now for repairing that.

We lost the boardwalk that was directly in front of the bathhouse, the wall of the bathhouse building, as well as the back wall of the pavilion. The next order of business is to begin discussions of the bathhouse on how we want to attack that.

Administration Office - Although the office has a generator, we lost the phone and internet connections because of a tree coming down. We were out of business in the office until Friday. We set up all of our employees at the Senior Center and we were able to operate from there. The staff did a tremendous job. The Parks Superintendent now has a lot of hard work ahead of him between managing contractors and trying to identify the work that needs to be done.

The only area of town that is not open is Burying Hill Beach and we are hoping for this Wednesday. The wall between the beach and the building is gone and the stairs are hanging with nothing underneath them. We had a fence contractor come in to fence off that area so it's inaccessible. Also we had a couple of feet of sand and debris in the parking lots.

Longshore Pool we lost the fence and the pool cover. Tennis courts at Longshore there was some erosion of the tennis courts. The skating rink probably had about \$20,000 - \$30,000 worth of damage they did get water up in the chiller and had to replace a couple of the chambers.

Benches - The benches and trash cans were collected and grouped together in the parking lot at Compo Beach and are working on getting them back in place. We are finding benches in various places around the beach.

Compo Beach Playground - There was no structural damage just a lot of sand. We did have a volunteer group come in and clean that up.

4. Preliminary discussion of budget for 2013-14.

Mr. McCarthy - We are a couple of weeks behind schedule in starting on the budget because of the storm. We have not had any guidance yet for this year's budget other than to keep costs down and revenue up.

Mr. Moss - People are feeling the pain in terms of maintenance.

Mr. McCarthy - My approach in the area of maintenance would be to increase our contract services budgets. We are not going to be hiring more people so we will address that with contract services.

5. Old Business

Mr. Axthelm updated the commission on his discussions with Mr. Franciscovich regarding amending the Field Use policy (see attached). Following a brief discussion, largely based on the role of the Commission in supporting premier level sports programs, it was suggested that Mr. Axthelm further develop a proposal to allow the item to be placed on a future agenda for a more focused discussion.

6. New Business

Mr. McCarthy - As noted at the last meeting we are undertaking a review of the tennis policies. Between now and our next meeting we will reach out to the Westport Tennis Association and the groups that are currently booking under group policy, making them aware of what we are talking about. Also we will be reaching out to the tennis community to let them know what we are proposing and then bring this back to you for a formal discussion.

There are three significant items:

Policies and Procedures of the tennis courts we have made two significant recommendations: 1) Non-resident play with reservations available for non-pass holders 2 days in advance, also reservations for pass holders from 1 day in advance to 5 days in advance. 2) Eliminate open doubles at Longshore.

Seasonal Group Policy has been revised to reflect the demand for reserved time, availability of court space and adjustment of fees reflecting the convenience to the players of booking advanced reservations.

Policy for Private Instruction on town courts - This policy would require the instructor to be registered with the Parks and Recreation Department and only registered instructors would be permitted to teach on Town courts.

7. Commissioner's Reports

None

8. Administrative Update

None

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully,
Sheila Kavey
Recording Secretary