

**Town of Chester  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, May 14, 2018  
Municipal Complex  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Preliminaries**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chairperson Trask called the meeting to order for the Town of Chester Recreation Commission (RC) at 7:32 pm.

**1.2 Roll Call**

RC members present:

Michelle Trask, Chairperson  
Leslie Hammond, Vice Chairperson  
Kevin Kistler  
Maria Oakley  
Rick Pike  
Jeremy Owens- BOS Liaison

RC members absent:

Melinda Mafera

Staff present:

Corinna Reishus, Recreation Director

Others present:

Kendra Kearney, Chester Resident

Ms. Reishus explained that Ms. Kearney is a guest at the meeting interested in possibly joining the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Kendra Kearney introduced herself to the Commission. She noted that she is a life-long resident of Chester.

Chair Trask explained that any person interested in joining the Commission needs to attend three meetings and then be appointed by the BOS.

**II. Review and Approve minutes from March 26, 2018 meeting.**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the April 9, 2018 meeting.

Line 99 had "BOS" changed to "Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee."

Chair Trask made a motion to accept the April 9, 2018 minutes as amended; Mr. Pike seconded the motion. Motion approved, 4-0-1, Mr. Kistler abstained.

**III. Reports**

Ms. Reishus said that she had no reports to present to the Commission.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### ***4.1 Chester Academy Gym Usage***

Ms. Reishus said that she had requested four days of gym practice time and Saturday game time from the school for next season's Recreation basketball program. She noted that she had not heard anything back about this request, so she spoke directly to Ms. Ann Parnell. Ms. Reishus stated that Ms. Parnell said that they are waiting to hear from the other group to see what times they may be requesting.

The Commission discussed the next steps.

The Commission agreed that they would request a meeting with the school board to present and explain the inequity of the distribution of gym usage for the tax payer funded Recreation basketball teams. Ms. Reishus said she will make the request for the meeting at the next school board meeting.

Mr. Owens noted that the issue is that the school shouldn't be giving the privately funded basketball group priority over the Chester tax payer funded Recreation basketball teams.

##### ***4.2 Impact Fee Purchases***

Ms. Reishus noted that the soccer goals (two full size varsity goals with wheels) have been ordered for the Wason Pond fields. She said that she issued payment through check because they are not needed until the fall.

Ms. Reishus noted that the benches and bleachers have arrived and are being stored in the barn until they are ready to be set-up. She explained that because of various negotiations, she was able to get a very good deal and purchased: three sets of three-row, twenty-one seat bleachers, eight 15 foot benches with no back, and four 15 foot benches with backrests. Ms. Reishus said that they are all in the dark green.

The Commission discussed the best way to keep the benches secure.

Ms. Reishus explained that the MPR wall pads must be flame retardant which are \$100 more per pad. She said that they must possibly tap into the additional money that they have set aside for the MPR upgrades.

Ms. Reishus said Chair Trask needs to sign the letter that explains why the Commission is holding off until the fall (the next fiscal year) to do the baseball infields.

##### ***4.3 Wason Pond Playground***

Ms. Reishus said that Sturdy Fence has already completed the repairs to the roadside part of the fence that was bent. She noted that this week the wooden side will be repaired causing the playground to be closed for 24 hours.

#### **V. New Business**

##### ***5.1 Portables***

Ms. Reishus informed the Commission that the Baseball and Softball group have pre-paid the portables at the Town fields for two months.

Ms. Reishus and the Commission discussed the placement of the portables and the need to have them put in for the spring and summer.

## **5.2    *Approval for Spraying for Ticks***

Ms. Reishus explained that the BOS gave the Recreation Commission approval for spraying for ticks, but would not be able to use Town budget money; the Recreation Commission would have to use their revolving account fund to pay for the spraying which costs \$3000.00.

There was some discussion about when and how this approval happened. Mr. Owens noted that he was unaware that the BOS had had a second vote at the Town meeting.

The Commission had much discussion about the spraying for ticks.

Mr. Owens stated that he is against spraying for ticks because there is no evidence that spraying for ticks reduces the numbers of Lyme disease but it does kill bees, and fish because of the run-off.

Ms. Reishus described where and what Mosquito Joe will spray and uses, saying that they must spray 50 feet from the water.

Mr. Owens reiterated that he is still a no on spraying. He said that there is no evidence that we are doing anything other than spending money on spraying carcinogens.

Vice Chair Hammond made a motion to use the Recreation Commission revolving fund account in the amount up to \$3000 to spray for tick abatement at the Town fields and the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation areas; Ms. Oakley seconded the motion.

The Commission had very much discussion about the issue of spraying for ticks.

Ms. Trask said that the ticks are everywhere, but she is not convinced that the cost is worth it.

Mr. Pike said that although the ticks are really bad, he personally has never been on board with any of that kind of stuff; he doesn't use any sprays on his own property.

Ms. Reishus suggested that they try it for this season and see how it works.

Mr. Owens said that each parent can spray their own child if they want to use those products.

Ms. Reishus explained that Mosquito Joe does not spray the fields, but that they spray the perimeter where the ticks come in, so it wouldn't have direct contact on the children.

Ms. Trask asked what happens to the ticks already on the field.

Mr. Kistler noted that Wason Pond fields were better after the field had been mowed.

The Commission discussed more natural ways to keep the ticks away, such as a two-foot wide perimeter of crushed stone.

The Commission had more discussion on the ingredients in the spray.

Mr. Owens noted that he is not aware of any safe product that effectively kills ticks.

Ms. Oakley said that she agrees that the ticks are awful, but she doesn't think we should kill the environment. She pointed out that although the spray is supposed to stay on the leaves, leaves fall off and blow into the water. Ms. Oakley noted that she sprays her child to keep him safe but disagrees with spraying the environment.

Ms. Reishus said that she has had many complaints about the ticks at Wason Pond from the general Public, baseball, and the Seniors.

Mr. Owens said that the spray temporarily brings down the population of the ticks and then the ticks population goes up again, but it has not been shown to effectively reduce the number of Lyme disease cases. He said that if people spray themselves and their children that that is their prerogative, if the chemicals turn out to be carcinogenic down the road then that is their decision. He said that it is a personal responsibility issue.

Vice Chair Hammond argued that something is better than nothing and that they should try the spray and see how effective it is.

Mr. Owens said that he disagrees with spraying chemicals because the long term effects are not known; he pointed out that chemicals that have been considered safe in the past are later found out to be dangerous. He noted that you can't undo the damage that may have been done.

Mr. Pike said that he has gotten many ticks at Wason, but, they get them walking out their back door.

Mr. Kistler said that the he may consider spraying Town fields but doesn't think it is wise to spray the conservation area.

Mr. Pike pointed out that many surrounding Towns spray for ticks.

Mr. Owens said that signs would have to be posted that say the field have been sprayed.

Chair Trask called for a vote on the motion. Motion opposed, 1-2-2, Ms. Oakley and Mr. Pike abstained.

### ***5.3 No Smoking Signs***

Ms. Reishus noted that "No Smoking" signs are going to be put up that are consistent with all the existing signs. She said that the Town ordinance of no smoking at the Town fields passed last year and all the signs will reflect that ordinance.

### ***5.3 Fishing Derby (Saturday, June 2)***

Ms. Reishus said that the permit has been received to conduct the fishing contest. She noted that she has ordered the 250 fish with which the pond will be stocked, matched by the State, as well.

Chair Trask made a motion that Ms. Reishus may use the Recreation revolving account to purchase supplies and prizes for the fishing derby; Mr. Pike seconded the motion. Motion approved, 5-0-0.

### ***5.4 Summer Program***

Ms. Reishus updated the Commission on the hiring that has been taken place to date.

Ms. Reishus noted that Ms. Oakley is the director of the program.

Ms. Reishus said that the "Meet and Greet" will be June 22.

### ***5.5 Town Fair (Saturday, September 8)***

Ms. Reishus updated the Commission on the Town Fair Committee progress; she noted that there have been a couple of meetings to date.

## **VI Other**

### **6.1 *New Yoga Instructor***

Ms. Reishus explained that she had been approached by a certified yoga instructor that does Hatha yoga. She said that she would like to try out the instructor and see how many people are interested. The Commission agreed.

### **6.2 *Youth Coed Basketball***

Ms. Reishus said she had been approached to hold a 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball pick-up games at the MPR during the summer. The Commission agreed.

### **6.3 *Walking Club***

Ms. Reishus informed the club of the eight-member walking club that had started again last week.

### **6.4 *Chester Soccer Booster Club***

Chair Trask reviewed with the Commission the remaining balance in the Chester Soccer Booster Club account, noting the amount as \$918.47. The Booster Club done and they need to close out the account.

The Commission discussed what the options are. They agreed to suggest that they write a check to the Recreation department in the soccer line, to put it directly back into the soccer program.

**Next Meeting scheduled for June 11, 2018.**

## **VI. Adjournment**

Chairperson Trask adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Recording Secretary,  
Molly Qualters