



# Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting March 9, 2021



**Those in attendance:**

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Rob Keister	John Unson
	Eileen Andrews	Steve Murphy	
Director:	Dan Hoock		
Town Board Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio		
Not in attendance:	Brom Bianchi and Greg Westbrook		

This meeting was conducted via email. The meeting information was sent to each Commissioner on March 9, with the request that each respond back to Dan Hoock, using the “reply all” key, so everyone could see their input by March 16. These minutes are based on those replies. The format of these minutes will reflect the responses of those Commissioners who have given their input.

Review and approval of the February Commission meeting minutes:

**Approval of the February Commission meeting minutes:**

Approval: Eileen Andrews, Rob Keister, Steve Murphy, Rhoda Ride, John Unson  
 No approval: None  
 Abstention: None

**Financial Report:**

The February 2021 financial report was reviewed.

**A vote for the approval of the February Financial Report is as follows:**

Approval: Eileen Andrews, Rob Keister, Steve Murphy, Rhoda Ride, John Unson  
 No approval: None  
 Abstention: None

**Input from Commissioners:**

None at this time.

**Correspondence:**

None at this time.

**Programming:**

Dan Hoock reported on the following programming:

- \* The Winter Classic Hockey Tournament had 24 players participate. This street hockey tournament was held at Westgate Park and ran very smoothly. The expenses included food (\$115) and winter hats (\$238.) A \$20 registration fee was charged. Consideration of this becoming an annual event will be considered. Also, there are plans for a spring/summer league being considered too.
- \* Current programming being held include: dance classes, Tai Chi and AARP Tax Preparation.

**Input from Commissioners:**

**Rhoda Ride** shared how pleased she was that the programming being offered is going so well and that the community is supporting them.

**John Unson** shared he was glad to see that programming was going well.

**Old Business:**

Dan Hoock reported on the following activities/events:

- \* The grant from Autism Council was spent on an event called “March On” held on 3/12/21. This will involve bringing the social club back and hopefully reactivated. Dan is also planning six afternoon park outings on Fridays from April thru June.
- \* The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Westgate Park. It will be a modified version of this event. Pre-Registration will be required and limited to 50 participants for each hour. The first hunt is scheduled for 9:30AM, the second at 10:30AM. If more people register, consideration will be given to a third event. Registration for this event will start on 3.15.21.
- \* Summer Celebration update: Dan has connected with a few bands. He proposed that *Herb Smith’s Freedom Trio* take the early slot for entertainment, and *Music of the Stars* would take the later spot. The fireworks and audio production set is in place. Other plans will be put on hold until we know for certain this event will take place.
- \* Renovation of bathrooms at Memorial Park update: Dan has met with two contractors related to this project. Only one quote has come back so far. He is checking in with other contractors in order to get three quotes. Once a decision is made related to what is going to be done with these bathrooms, Dan will arrange to have portable bathrooms available for use while construction is going on.

- \* Dan also met with the Town Supervisor to discuss fixing the foundation of the shelter, along with the addition of a concrete pad and overhang on the front of the building. The foundation repair is a necessity, and the other improvements would enhance the aesthetics of the shelter itself. This might increase the appeal to the community to rent this property.
- \* Update on Wegman Rd. Open Pavilion: The existing pavilion needs to be removed. Dan is investigating several options for replacement of this structure. All will be open pavilion options and hopefully would fit well on the existing concrete flooring.
- \* Pickle Ball Court update: Dan assessed the use of the courts and discovered they are not being used frequently. He feels the Commission should give some thought to repurposing this area for some other use. A possibility might be a small spray park, or a covered picnic area. Discussion of these options will be shared at a later meeting.

### **Input from Commissioners:**

**Eileen Andrews:** Inquired about the age groups for the Easter Egg hunt? She also mentioned the plans for the Summer Celebration were good.

**Rob Keister:** Asked for an explanation of the term “diversity in music” that Dan used in his description of the bands being considered to play at the Summer Celebration. He also felt the price quote for the Wegman Rd. pavilion was very high. Other quotes should be considered.

**Steve Murphy:** The band choices sound good for the Summer Celebration. The proposed renovations at Memorial and Wegman Rd. parks are good and should be started as soon as possible. Steve volunteered to help at the Easter Egg Hunt also if needed.

**Rhoda Ride:** Shared she was delighted to hear about definite renovation plans being made for park improvements and wondered what timeline would be followed for them? She also asked for a further explanation about the foundation concerns of the Memorial Park shelter and asked that Dan share them with the Commission at the April meeting.

**John Unson:** Shared he was glad to see the Memorial Park bathroom project settled and moving forward. He also mentioned he would be unavailable to help with the Easter Egg Hunt.

### **New Business:**

Dan Hoock shared an update on the following:

- \* Summer Camp: Dan is looking into using all of the town park shelters, the German Federation bldg., and possibly an elementary school (depending on availability) to see if these sites would work. They are now in the process of figuring out how much to charge for a week of camp.
- \* A good response has been received related to the March/April programming options. These include: Kids Night Out, Disc Golf Tournament, Line Dancing, Senior Fitness, Adult golf league and Tai Chi.
- \* Plans to reopen the Rec. Center: Plans to reopen the preschool area of the Rec. Center is scheduled for April 5. It will be limited with the number who can use it at one time, and registration will be required.

### **Input from Commissioners:**

**Rhoda Ride:** Shared she was impressed with the programming agenda that Dan and the department had for upcoming activities

### **Good of the Order:**

**Steve Murphy:** Complimented Dan and the dept. staff on doing a great job during this challenge time. Looking forward to seeing everyone on 4.13.21.

**John Unson:** Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

**Eileen Andrews:** I have 2-bags of puzzles for anyone who would like them. Also, I'm scheduled for my second shot on 3.29.21. Looking forward to seeing everyone on April 13. She also complimented Dan and the dept. staff on the good job they have been doing.

**Rob Keister:** Be safe and I hope you have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Rhoda Ride:** Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April Commission meeting. Happy Easter!

**Valerie Young:** Wished everyone a Happy Easter...and looking forward to seeing everyone in person at our next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30PM on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The meeting will be held in person at the Memorial Park shelter and everyone is requested to wear masks.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Young - Secretary