



TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

1675 FOXON ROAD, P.O. BOX 287, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of December 18, 2006
7:30 p.m.
North Branford Senior Center

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Victor Palma at 7:45 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Bergmark, Victor Palma and Brian Lynch.
Also present was Pam Gery, Director, and Councilor Joanne Wentworth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Joiner and Marie Diamond. Also absent was Michael Doody, Town Council Liaison

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

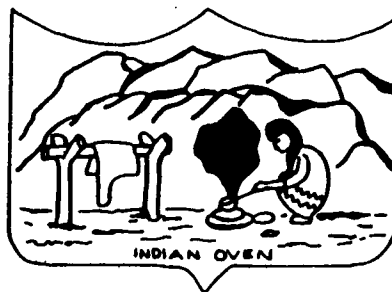
Due to a lack of voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of June 19, September 18, and October 16, 2006 will be tabled to the next monthly meeting.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Pam Gery advised the members that the only "wish list" that she received back from her request to the sports organizations back in October was from John Kaczor of Little League Baseball (dated November 25, 2006). She distributed copies to the members, and she has given a copy of it to Public Works Director Fran Merola for his review.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery informed the members that she and Fran Merola will be getting bids for the drilling of the well at Northford Park in order to hook up the existing water cannon. She stated that she and Town Manager Karl Kilduff have discussed Phase One of the Wall Field (as it is known now) being moved to the Swajchuk Property, behind the Police Department and adjacent to the Public Works. The funds are already in place. She will



need to obtain current and projected statistics on programs, needs, etc. with the help of her Parks and Recreation staff, and the members of this Commission. A discussion was held regarding the field needs and field usage, and the continued need to take a field off line. A decision will have to be made as soon as possible as to which field will be taken off line, and the sports organizations notified.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that an anonymous letter with complaints about the Senior Center was recently mailed directly to the Town Council and not to this Department or Commission. The matter was placed on the Town Council meeting Agenda of December 12th and Ms. Gery was advised by Town Manager Karl Kilduff to attend that meeting. She and Senior Program Coordinator Judith Barron, and Chairman Brian Lynch of this Commission attended the Town Council hearing to address the matter. The Council wants the policies and procedures reviewed, and it is their proposal that the possibilities of dividing the Senior Center and Recreation Department be looked into further, with the Senior Center have its own Director and its own Commission, separate and distinct from the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission. There was concern from the Commission members that they did not receive a copy or any notification of the Council's receipt of this anonymous letter from the Town Council so that it could be placed on this Commission's Agenda to be reviewed and discussed. The Council required a meeting to be held between Karl Kilduff, Ms. Gery and Judith Barron (which has now taken place.) They also has advised Ms. Gery to appear at their meeting of January 16, 2007 to address the letter and report to them her findings regarding statistics of other Town senior centers, and budgets.

Brian Lynch made a Motion that this Commission draft a letter to the Town Council expressing the concerns that they had entertained a letter at a Council meeting that is anonymous and that due to this anonymous complaint, they have suggested the possibility of a separation of the Recreation Department and the Senior Center with a separate Director and Commission, and questioned current policies and procedures, all without ever asking this Commission for their input. Ronald Bergmark seconded the Motion, Victor Palma was in favor, and the Motion passed.

7) **MONTHLY UPDATE OF NEW PROPERTY PROJECTS:**

A discussion was held under "Parks and Fields."

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Pam Gery informed the Commission that she is now going through the budget and will report at the next monthly meeting.

9) **APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2007**

The Schedule of Meetings 2007 was distributed to the members. Ronald Bergmark made a motion to approve the Schedule, seconded by Brian Lynch. All were in favor and the Motion passed. The Schedule will be filed with the Town Clerk.



