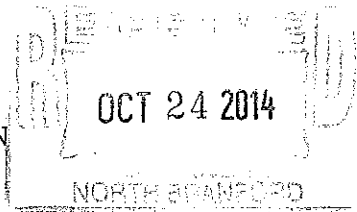


PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION



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# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

STW Community Center

October 20, 2014

### Minutes

**Present:** Brian Lynch, Victor Palma and Steve Torino and  
Michelle Provencher. Absent: Karen Ablondi.

**Also Attending:** Director Pam Gery, Joe Mascari, NB Little  
League (Baseball) and Michael Rice (Youth Football).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian  
Lynch at 7:30 pm.

### **Minutes:**

The September 15, 2014 Minutes were unanimously  
approved on the motion by Victor Palma, seconded by Steve  
Torino.

### **Town Sports Organizations:**

Michael Rice addressed the need for a multi-use field  
to accommodate the amount of kids that are practicing on  
Memorial Softball field. He has worked out a mutual  
agreement with Lacrosse to alleviate some scheduling  
conflicts with the use of Mill Road field; which has  
helped.

He also addressed the need for handicap accessibility at  
Totoket Field, and presented a letter with pictures  
outlining additional issues. Victor and Brian both agreed  
that they understand that fields may all have need for  
changes but if this issue becomes an expensive proposal and  
the town doesn't have the money to make these changes right

now they are at risk of having the field being taken off line. Brian suggested that Pam make arrangements to meet with the Risk Manager and Insurance Company after their season is done in the next few weeks.

Representing the Little League baseball and softball groups, Joe Mascari again brought their scheduling problems to the attention of the Commission. Most concerned is the need for additional fields and/or repairs to some of them. They would like to see upgrades and play more safely done. Some fields, such as Coulter, can't be used for practice for three or four days after a storm. The Commission suggested that all his concerns and requests be submitted to Pam in writing so that she could prioritize them and present them at budget time. She explained how the budget process is done with the help of Fran Merola, Public Works who knows the fields best. When Capital recommendations are made to the Town Manager at budget time, he will make the decision what will stay in the budget that is presented to the Town Council. The Town Council then may cut it further. Field development and other improvements have been recommended many times through the year but ends up being cut because of funding. She also suggested that he too prioritize his requests.

#### **Parks and Fields:**

Pam and Fran Merola met and compiled a list of improvements for the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. Brian suggested that the Commission should schedule a walk through the facility and fields to familiarize members with them in order to understand the 5 year Capital Plan and what it consists of.

Pam also mentioned that a main endeavor will be to come up with a plan to beautify the outside of the new Community Center. She met with a Landscape Architect earlier in the day and would like to get some preliminary plans for the Commission to look at as well as to determine what type of funding these improvements will need. She will also review the original plans for Swajack property.

#### **a. Dog Park:**

No representative present.

### Program Review:

Though the figures are not final, the Potato and Corn festival report reflected that the event was a success and Rosanne did an outstanding job with the budget. Pam also reminded the Commission that the a few years back she had looked into adding a Haunted Halloween Event at the Farmhouse on the acquired Augur property. This didn't go anywhere with the lack of additional help and moving to the new Community Center space. Now, that Rosanne is working on the festival they would like to look into this idea again for a Haunted House as a future endeavor in connection with the festival and ongoing though Halloween. Everything needed is already there.

Pam also reported that her department would like to plan for a massive employee wellness program utilizing the facilities at STW as a benefit for good health amongst Town employees at Town Hall, Public Works, Library and the schools.

### New Property Projects:

Nothing reported.

### Budget Review:

Nothing reported.

### STW Community Center

The Public Works Dept. has installed the new parking area and improved lighting which is being well received.

### Senior Center

Medical transportation and the state run My Ride program is being looked into to find out ways of increasing our services to our residents. Judy Barron, the NB Senior Program Supervisor has been in contact with other Senior Centers to find out how their medical runs are operated. Pam will report back in November.

Steve Torino brought up the timing of the delivery of the program brochure. He noted that several programs left little time to sign up for them. Pam explained that the brochure is prepared over a period of time in advance, but sometimes it is delayed to be published. She said that it

was not the only way programs were announced, since flyers, mailings and advertising was also utilized. Programs were left in the booklet as a reminder as well as a second chance to sign up.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm on a motion by Brian Lynch, seconded by Victor Palma and the next meeting will be on Monday, November 17th, 2014 at 7:30 at the STW Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Leigh Bianchi*  
Mary Leigh Bianchi  
Clerk