

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of February 2, 2021 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Dan Zenkel, Norma Hill, Lois Mallin, Jennifer Clark, Brendan Molloy, Todd Orlowski, Jennifer Giusti, Saleem Hussain, Lisa Larsen

Absent: None

Minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting were accepted and approved. Motion Lois Mallin, Second Brendan Molloy, all in favor.

Superintendent's Report

- The Beautification Committee postponed joining us at this meeting. They need more time to work on a sculpture idea and will circle back at a future meeting.
- Town Board has approved going to bid for the CXT bathroom building at Community Park. Dates will be coordinated with Town Clerk's office. We are on target for the work to begin in the spring.
- Superintendent Orlowski and members of the Chamber of Commerce discussed having summer concerts in Wampus Brook Park, similar to last summer - two dates in July and two dates in August, on Thursdays and Saturdays, with a possible fifth, end of summer finale, concert to be held in September. Mr. Orlowski mentioned the budget will go up with the fifth concert, but that we will be under budget overall.
- Spring and summer program planning is under way. We are looking into how to manage town camp. Department of Health is carrying last summer's protocols to this year. The school district has not yet notified Superintendent Orlowski if whether or not the school campuses can be utilized for summer camp. Maximum indoor occupancy is 50% of capacity. There is the thought to rent tents if we are denied by the district. No more than 15 campers in a group. Staffing and coordination will be challenging.

Spring Fields: More than 800+ residents signed a petition organized by Rachel and Matt Milim reflecting outrage over the state of our playing fields and parks. Superintendent Orlowski held a field meeting just days prior to receiving the petition. What has been a major problem and big loss is the closure of the school district fields. This eliminated 50 percent of athletic organization's field availability. Between July and October, the Town was required to host more teams and more time slots than typically would in eight months. Superintendent Orlowski, as well as Chairman Hinrichs, will respond to the items raised in the petition outlining how the department currently maintains the sports turf and immediate plans. Some of the items included in the petition are grub control, bathroom facilities, artificial turf, drainage issues, installation of more lights, develop more fields with unused plots of land, invest more time and money into field maintenance. Moving forward we will recommend that the Town Board retain a qualified agronomist who specializes in athletic fields to test soil conditions and evaluate turf conditions.

North Castle Grounds: Member Jennifer Clark reported that North Castle Grounds ("NCG") has been filed and established as a charitable non-profit organization with the State of New York. A website will be set up near term with a Donate Now button.

Parent Group: Parents with preschool aged children received an email reminding them of the steps to register an account with the department and encouraged them to do so prior to registration day so that the office could help with any issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 3/2 at 6:15PM via Zoom Invite