

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")  
Minutes of January 11, 2022 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Karl Hinrichs, Brendan Molloy, Norma Hill, Jennifer Clark, Sharon Weiss, Matt Trainor, Jennifer Giusti, Lisa Larsen, Saleem Hussain, Matt Milim, Brian Baranaskas, Jeff Barth

**Absent:** None

Chairman Hinrichs welcomed Jeff Barth as a guest and potential PRAB member, along with returning guest Brian Baranaskas as a guest and potential PRAB member. The January meeting was then called to order.

**Minutes** of the December meeting were amended, accepted, and approved - all in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS - GENERAL UPDATES**

**Replacing of Playgrounds:** Superintendent Trainor reported that nothing significant has changed on this issue. He would like to discuss the difference between surfaces and their costs, poured in place (PIP) and engineered wood fiber, with the Town Board at a future work session. The plan is to make the playground at IBM Community Park ADA compliant along with safety surfacing. Superintendent Trainor will present two numbers to the Town Board, one for the cost for PIP and the other for the cost of engineered wood fiber. It is important to note that engineered wood fiber requires maintenance, so there should be a maintenance line item. He will indicate PIP preference of the PRAB - ultimate decision will be from Town Board.

**Lombardi Park Pavilion:** Superintendent Trainor met with contractors on site - two contractors working in tandem - one welding and one concrete. Work will begin in approximately one week and will take two more weeks for completion - park will remain open. Cost currently at \$20k; the condition of the base plates may affect the final price. Member Clark has concerns with cost, a threshold should be set. She feels \$20k is a lot of money to fix something that can be replaced for less.

**Lombardi Building Takedown/Development:** Superintendent Trainor reported that the holidays slowed progress down in trying to pin down the engineer. The driving issue is where to house the water system. He feels it's much better to have the water system congruent with the current parks garage for purposes of maintenance. The new structure will either be a new, similar to the old house, colonial design house, or a colonial-looking addition to the current parks garage - it will not be a large structure. Changes evolved onsite when talking with the engineer about the water system.

**American Flag from Elks Lodge:** Superintendent Trainor reported that the framed American flag has been hung in the main room on the first floor at the Hergenhan Center. Art Adelman and some Elks members will hold dedication ceremony on Thursday 1/20 at 11AM - all are welcome to attend.

**Lighting Proposal for Wampus Brook Park:** The plan is to upgrade to LED lighting. The Supervisor, Town Administrator, Superintendent Trainor, and Park Foreman Foley will examine the 30 or so old lamp posts and decide what to do with them so as to preserve history. Member Clark would like Sharon Tomback, of the Historical Society, involved before the take down. The idea would be to repurpose, but not to upgrade the park as this is not logical or feasible. The Supervisor is looking for the Town Administrator's opinion.

**Beautification Items for Wampus Brook Park:** Superintendent Trainor reported that the Purchase Order was submitted to GameTime for 2 picnic tables and 2 large and 3 small earth tone, tabletop-like mushrooms. Each mushroom will need a footing and concrete base. He will advise PRAB members of delivery; no date currently scheduled.

**Message Board Centers for Betsy Sluder and Wampus Brook Park:** Superintendent Trainor reported that both message boards have been delivered. The footings have been installed, but brackets were missing. Install will be completed once the brackets are received.

**Town Pool Update:** Not listed as an agenda item, but discussion ensued. Councilman Hussain reported that there have been no update meetings since the fall; Administrator Hay is working on scheduling these meetings again. Councilman Hussain is unsure of time point when town can take ownership of the pool, or have an alternate plan. The Town Board is not supportive of doing major capital improvements without ownership. Pool resurfacing would cost \$175-250k and deck resurfacing another \$150k. We won't know pool maintenance issues and problems until March. Member Molloy reiterated two ongoing questions - one, what is the total amount owed including bondholders, and two, is the Town willing to pay that amount.

**Other Miscellaneous Topics:** Member Clark brought up the issue of the number of vacancies on the PRAB. The PRAB consists of 7 members - there are 2 vacancies currently. Interested parties should initially speak to Chairman Hinrichs and would be invited to sit in on a meeting or two. If there is interest and both parties feel the fit is good, then the next step is for the candidate to interview with Town Board. Member Clark would like one of the two candidates to be someone with preschool-age young children.

Councilman Milim brought up the issue that PRAB is overdue for a Town survey - think about what it should entail and when to send it out. Councilman Hussain wondering from which various venues input should be requested. Member Hill is interested in stimulating enrichment for seniors - not just eating bagels and playing bingo - perhaps having smaller focus groups is a nice way to bring input in. An idea from Member Clark - grandma/grandpa and me classes, or ideas from Member Weiss - outdoor activities such as biking or hiking.

Superintendent Trainor reported of some staff changes. We hired Rich Ware, Park Groundskeeper, who started on 12/20. Mimi Flanagan, Senior Account Clerk, is retiring - last day of work is Friday 1/28. She will be greatly missed and discussions will be had next week on distributing work duties.

Councilman Hussain reported he is forming a Technology Task Force Committee. This committee will focus on how to communicate information, means of communication, and how we should best use technology. The committee will consist of five members plus Liaison Saleem Hussain - all applications will be received by Friday 1/14.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tennis/Basketball Courts Resurfacing RFP:** On Town Board Agenda to go out to RFP again - the resurfacing will include lines for pickleball. The original RFP was two years ago, prior to Covid. Member Clark recommends that the RFP be valid for one year - Superintendent Trainor will consider. He knows of two or three individuals who perform this work. On a separate note, Member Clark wonders if any of the two or three individuals do PIP work; maybe get competitive quotes for this job and playground resurfacing.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 2/1

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.