

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")**  
**Minutes of October 1, 2019 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Karl Hinrichs, Brendan Molloy, Norma Hill, Lois Mallin, Dan Zenkel, Steve D'Angelo, Todd Orlowski, Jennifer Giusti, Lisa Larsen

Sports Clubs: Abby Woodworth, Chris Conigliaro, Steve Chapman, Michelle Krevllin, Ryan Carrier, Rachel Milim, Matt Milim, Sherry Rothenberg, Denis Barry

Beautification Committee Members: Angela Monforte, Carol Bidjarano, Barbara DiGiacinto

**Absent:** Frank Lattarulo

**Minutes** of the September 3, 2019 meeting were accepted and approved.

**Field Conditions:** Superintendent Orlowski reported that while the Parks Dept. conducted routine aeration and seeding of fields, the Town Hall field was destroyed by grubs. The field had all its native grass and root systems eliminated. Parks Foreman Foley reported that this is not a new problem and had warned about grubs last year. He confirmed this is the worst that he has ever seen. As a result, Town Hall field had to be closed – both the infield and outfield had to be repaired with new topsoil, seed, and hay. Grubs tend to develop in the spring and late August start to feed showing damage in September and October. IBM 3 and 4 have signs of grubs and have noticeably deteriorated all within a week's time. Grubs generally exist across most of the playing fields in Town.

A number of representatives from the different sports organizations were in attendance voicing their concerns and frustrations with field conditions. The Town's policy does not allow use of pesticides. There was discussion about organic products such as Milky Spore. This takes an estimated two to three years to work and is sometimes not effective. The sports representatives did not know there was a policy and want the Town Board to review the issue. They would like to revisit the policy on behalf of all the sports clubs and see more done with field improvements.

Councilman D'Angelo responded that they would be hard pressed to find sports fields that use pesticides. A meeting to discuss the issue will be held to determine what's best for the Town – no decision is made lightly.

Another concern is practice space. If IBM 3 is closed the Track field should be reopened for soccer to help with the pressure on other fields. The Track field usually closes after the Art Show for repairs. Superintendent Orlowski will look at all the fields to assess conditions, including Clove Road fields in North White Plains, and let the clubs know whether the track field can reopen.

**Dam Projects – Duck Pond & Betsy Sluder:** Betsy Sluder restoration project was completed and successful. Duck Pond work will begin now with a restoration completion date by the end of October.

**Winkler Tennis Courts:** Superintendent Orlowski showed pictures of the repairs and reported that the tennis court resurfacing is close to completion. Work remaining is to paint and line which should be completed by the week of 10/7.

**Beautification Committee – Sculpture Proposal:** Explained there is a bronze acrobat statue of a boy and girl available for purchase. It is six feet tall and 1 ½ feet wide and will cost \$3,200. According to Barbara DiGiacinto, Joyce Hergenhan was considering paying for the statue if it can be placed outside the Hergenhan Center. The Beautification Committee also has money in their budget for purchasing sculptures. Pictures of different locations at Hergenhan were reviewed – the PRAB passed a resolution in favor of the statue and its location on the right side of the building (facing from the street). Additionally, the PRAB is in favor of Carol Bidjarano moving ahead with the purchase. A memo of support will be drafted to the Town Board.

**Memorial Applications (2):** Superintendent Orlowski mentioned two memorial applications that were received. One was from a woman who wanted to donate a bench in honor of her parents, and the other was for a young boy, Daniel McManus, who passed away from leukemia. Both applications are for residents and meet the necessary criteria. PRAB members asked Superintendent Orlowski to forward the memorial guidelines and procedures document to them for review. The PRAB made a recommendation to approve the Daniel McManus bench, location pending within Wampus Brook Park. The second request is on hold – more information is needed. Superintendent Orlowski will do an inventory of the benches.

**Wampus Park South:** Superintendent Orlowski met with SaveATree to discuss clearing the brook on both sides leaving some native shrubs and trees. Their estimate for the proposed work is in the ball park of \$20-25,000.

**CXT Bathrooms for Community Park:** Waiting to receive the final written report on soil testing and conditions of the site where bathroom will be located. Once the location is approved, production is between two and three weeks according to CXT.

**Superintendent's Report:** Fall happenings include the children's Halloween party held on 10/25 in North White Plains at the Community Center as well as:

- 5k race on 10/27 coordinated by the Tateo family to support programs and services for autism.
- The pool is closed and winterized – a revenue and expense report was distributed.

The meeting was closed and adjourned at 7:45PM.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11/12 at 6:15PM