

**Town of Hamden**  
**Town Center Park Commission**  
**Via Zoom/ Telephonically**  
**Minutes of a Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**4:45 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Hamden Town Center Park Commission took place on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:45pm, via Zoom/telephonically.

**In Attendance:** Matt (Matthew) Fitch, Chair; Gerry Tobin; Jessica Hazen

**Absent:** Michael D’Andrea; Victor Mitchell

**Also in Attendance:** Alisha Martindale; Julie Smith; Adam Matlock; Liana Paglia, Clerk for the Commission

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Matthew Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
2. **Attendance:** As noted above.
3. **Approval of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 (Special Meeting) Minutes**

Ms. Tobin made a motion to approve the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Minutes. Ms. Hazen seconded and all were in favor.

**4. Chairman’s Report:**

Patrick Donnelly could not attend the meeting, but wished to update the commission with some overall comments about the Movie Series in the Park. There was a turnout of 650+ cars throughout the series duration. Mr. Donnelly wished to give a special thanks to the following sponsors: Hamden Health & Rehabilitation, Best Video, and the Hamden Parks & Recreation Department. The administration will explore bringing back the series next year and will keep the commission updated.

**5. Update from Adam Matlock on the “Food Forest Project”:**

Mr. Matlock explained that while he has not seen the entirety of the park, he has noted some potential options for the project, like behind the Hamden middle school athletic fields. Since the last meeting, Mr. Matlock received and perused a copy of the Town Center Park Master Plan. Mr. Matlock expressed how impressed he was to see so much of the master plan’s objectives accomplished. Mr. Fitch agreed that the 20 year progress is impressive. Mr. Matlock noted that one possible project site is a spot marked “e” on the Master plan; it is a streetscape, which is close to the soccer fields. Another potential spot is on the other side of where the soccer

goals are. Mr. Matlock noted that this spot has an open green space in between/behind mulched and planted swails. He went on to say that aesthetically, this location would make sense, but would require some leveling.

Mr. Fitch clarified that the hill leading up to Dixwell Ave was intended to be a butterfly garden, but so much water accumulates there. Mr. Matlock questioned if Dixwell Ave. causes a street run off. Ms. Smith confirmed that the water does in fact run off from Dixwell Ave.; a catch basin feeds a stream. There are plans to do a rain garden there, at the top of the hill. The stream would run down the hill and drain in potential location for a butterfly garden.

Mr. Fitch questioned if Mr. Matlock's first choice for a project site was behind the soccer and baseball fields. Mr. Matlock responded by saying that the two locations he mentioned stood out to him as large enough spaces, however he is having a hard time getting a full scope of the Master Plan map. Mr. Fitch suggested Mr. Matlock look at the space via Google Maps, to get a more recently updated layout. Mr. Fitch also suggested a potential spot—a large wooded area that leads to the Farmington Canal, by the former gastropub, Hop Knot. Mr. Fitch also suggested the landscaped area by the access roads to the pavilion, but was unsure if there is too much shade there.

Mr. Matlock took note of the suggested areas, and went on to explain that he was not able to fully explore the park, as he visited during a soccer game. However, he is still interested in the areas that require more clearing, and wishes to explore the park again, in its entirety. Ms. Smith explained she knows the park very well and offered to do a walk-through with Mr. Matlock. Mr. Fitch expressed interest in doing the walk-through as well. Ms. Smith noted that she and Mr. Matlock have a zoom meeting with the Hamden Planning and Zoning Department on Thursday 10/29/20. Mr. Fitch advised that it would be prudent to do the walk-through prior to the meeting. Mr. Fitch, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Matlock tentatively agreed to meet for a walk-through around 12:30 on Thursday 10/28/20.

## **6. Update from Alisha Martindale**

In place of the Silver Bells, there will be a Luminaries walk in the park this holiday season in the park. This would be similar to the Luminaries walk done in Edgerton Park and would support proper social distancing practices. The Arts department will be working with staff from the Parks & Recreation and Library Departments to either make luminary bags or ask residents to donate glass jars. A date for the event has not been decided yet, but ideally it would be the first week in December. Ms. Smith said a tentative event date

would be Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Final Comments from Commissioners**

Mr. Fitch was thankful for Mr. Matlock's update on the Food Project site. He stated that the area behind the middle school fields is seriously underutilized and a great asset for the park and the town as well.

## **8. Old Business:** None

## **9. New Business:** Voting on 2021 meeting schedule

Mr. Fitch asked the clerk to read through the proposed meeting schedule for 2021, which has the same dates as the 2020 schedule. Ms. Tobin made a motion to approve the new schedule, which Mr. Fitch seconded. All were in favor.

## **10. Adjournment**

At 5:03 pm Mr. Fitch requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tobin moved to adjourn, which Ms. Hazen seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: **Liana Paglia**, Commission Clerk