

Town of Hamden
Town Center Park Commission
Via Zoom/ Telephonically
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Monday, November 23rd, 2020
4:45 p.m.

11/23/2020 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Chairman Matthew Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:46pm.

2. Attendance

In attendance: Matt (Matthew) Fitch, Chair; Gerry Tobin; Jessica Hazan; Victor Mitchell; Mike D'Andrea

Also in attendance: Alisha Martindale; Julie Smith; Liana Paglia, Clerk for the Commission

Absent: N/A

3. Approval Of Past Minutes

Ms. Tobin made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hazan seconded, and all were in favor. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. D'Andrea abstained from voting, as they were not present at the last meeting. <!--[endif]-->

4. Chairman's Report

N/A

5. Update From Alisha Martindale: Luminaries Event

As mentioned in the previous meeting, the "Silver Bells" holiday park event has been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. There was discussion of doing a "Luminaries" walk in the park, but the rollback to Phase 2 has caused some logistical issues. Chief Merwede had previously explained to Ms. Martindale that contact tracing would need to be in place, along with a 50 person restriction. The current plan is to set up a holiday lights display for residents to walk through and enjoy. There is an opportunity for sponsorship, as was done with the summer concerts series. Perhaps Hamden businesses and/or residents would be keen to sponsor a light display. Chairman Fitch was enthusiastic about the idea. He noted that it would be easy to maintain social distancing, as the light fixtures have to be far apart. Ms. Smith explained that the tentative date for the event is sometime during the first week of December. Ms. Smith explained that the event will not be heavily publicized, as the number of participants has to be kept reasonably low, due to COVID restrictions. Chairman Fitch suggested promoting the event on Facebook Live a few hours before the event, in order to limit the number of participants.

Chairman Fitch suggested a virtual Christmas market on the TCP Facebook page. In an effort to promote "shopping local," Hamden business will be highlighted on a daily or weekly basis, with links to their websites. Chairman Fitch asked for the other commissioners' thoughts and ideas. Ms. Smith said it's certainly feasible to post business' website links. They discussed the potential confusion that comes from posting on the TCP Facebook page, as it is not an official town page. Ms. Smith said that because the page is private, she sees no foreseeable issues. Chairman Fitch will craft a Facebook post draft explaining the holiday lights event and the virtual market and send to the other commissioners for review. He asked Ms. Martindale if there is a list of vendors for the previous park festivals. She will send him a copy of the food truck vendor list. Ms. Tobin questioned if the Hamden Chamber of Commerce is doing a similar virtual market. Ms. Smith will check with the Chamber, but sees it is a potential collaboration, rather than an issue.

Chairman Fitch asked the commissioners if they had any thoughts or ideas. Ms. Hazan mentioned that she saw a post in a town forum where residents were donating goods for those in need. While Ms. Smith was thrilled to see the community working together, she was unsure if the town needed to officially involve itself. She did suggest reposting the conversation thread on the TCP Facebook page. Ms. Hazan asked Ms. Smith for help facilitating a donation thread or at least reposting the original. Ms. Martindale suggested a donation program that emphasizes recycling goods, and potentially involving other commissions.

6. Old Business

The 2021 meeting schedule was voted on during the previous October 26th meeting. The clerk wished to clarify the location of these meetings, which is the second floor conference room in the Hamden Government Center.

7. New Business

Chairman Fitch reminded the commissioners to check the Facebook page for the upcoming activities and that there will be no December meeting.

8. Adjournment

At 5:15 p.m., Chairman Fitch requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tobin moved to adjourn, which Ms. Hazan seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk