

Kent Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes, Monthly Meeting  
March 21, 2016

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KENT TOWN CLERK

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BY *D. Decker*  
TOWN CLERK *RD*

Present: Jerry Decker, Dave Dunleavy, John Grant, Lynn Harrington, Glen Nielsen, director, Lesly Ferris.

Public and Invited Guests: None

Chairman Jerry Decker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Alternates: No alternates were present at the start of the meeting.

Agenda: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Dunleavy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 22, 2106 monthly meeting. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence: None.

Public and Invited Guests: None.

Director's Report: In addition to the report provided prior to the meeting (attached), Mrs. Ferris reported:

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt was March 19. Attendance was good although the weather was chilly. The youngsters expressed their appreciation of the event to the director before leaving.
- The Kent Center School student council members will visit the Kent Senior Center March 23 to color Easter Eggs and have lunch.
- The After-School Program youngsters will color Easter Eggs March 23, as well.

Old Business: After-School Program: Mrs. Ferris reported monthly attendance continues to exceed the prior year's monthly total. The program will not meet March 24-25 when Kent Center School is closed. Mrs. Ferris has spoken with the program director who is interested in returning next school year. Mrs. Ferris suggested putting this item on the April meeting agenda.

Parks: Mrs. Ferris is working with the highway foreman on tree removal at Emery Park. She asked the commission's assistance in identifying potential bidders for painting of the building at Emery Park.

2015-16/2016-17 Budgets: Mrs. Ferris reported the first selectman has presented the 2016-17 budget proposal to the Board of Finance. There have been no changes to the Park and Recreation spending plan.

Emery Park Swimming Area: public input: Mrs. Ferris will solicit some feedback from Harwinton Swim Pool Company about cost of a chlorinated swimming area. Mr. Decker said he spoke with Matt Hannan about getting a ballpark price, as well. Mrs. Ferris reiterated that the commission could solicit some

feedback during the summer from park patrons and plan to have a public forum for more input in September.

Summer employees: Mrs. Ferris reported the following:

- The camp director and a camp counselor have returned signed contracts;
- Three Emery Park lifeguards, including the head lifeguard, have returned signed contracts;
- She has posted notice of opening for a summer camp counselor on the Park and Recreation website, Facebook Page and sent a job opening notice to the high school.
- One person has returned a job application for the camp counselor position.

Summer Concert Series: Mrs. Ferris shared the following:

- The Board of Selectmen has approved the four summer concert dates to be held at Kent Town Hall.
- The Chamber of Commerce will fund the concert series.
- Two dates and bands are confirmed: July 28 – The Joint Chiefs and August 6 – Mojo Nectar.
- Mrs. Ferris is waiting for confirmation from Last Good Bender.
- Mrs. Ferris had forwarded a request from a third band that is interested in playing at the concert series. She will contact the band with a date once she hears from Bruce Carlson.

Mrs. Ferris will work on yard signs. Mr. Dunleavy suggested putting only the dates, free concert series and website information on the signs. Mrs. Ferris talked about getting posters to place in stores.

John Grant arrived at the meeting.

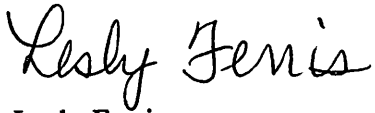
Mr. Dunleavy made a motion to elevate alternate John Grant. Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: Emery Park Pool Cleaning: Mrs. Ferris shared a proposal for cleaning of the Emery Park swimming area from the Harwinton Swim Pool Co., which did the work the last two years. The proposal is the same cost as last year. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the proposal from Harwinton Swim Pool Co. for the opening of the swimming area at Emery Park in the amount of \$5,565. Mr. Dunleavy seconded the motion. Mr. Dunleavy asked the director to get a written contract. The motion was approved unanimously.

Spring Baseball: Mrs. Ferris reported Jerry Decker will coach Kent's Minor Little League team. There currently as 12 youngsters registered for this team. There will be a joint practice of Little League players from Cornwall, Kent and Sharon March 23 in Sharon to determine if there is sufficient numbers and talent to field a tri-town Major Little League team. If so, the Minor Little League team likely would be a tri-town team, as well. Kent also will have a Farm team and instructional programs for kindergarten and first grades. Equipment needs were discussed.

Director PTO: Mrs. Ferris requested April 11-15, 2016 and June 20-24, 2016 as paid time off days. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to grant Mrs. Ferris PTO days April 11-15, 2016 and June 20-24, 2016. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is April 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesly Ferris".

Lesly Ferris  
Director

Lesly Ferris, Director  
Kent Park and Recreation

*Director's Report*  
*March 2016*

From the February monthly meeting:

- I contacted Sean McAvoy and gave him the commission's approval for the brush clearing at Emery Park.
- I emailed John Grant a letter and information to let him know the commission has appointed him as an alternate.
- I filed a form with the Town Clerk regarding the commission's appointment of John Grant as an alternate.
- I sent a memo to the Town Clerk and Selectman's Administrative Assistant informing them of Jerry Decker's appointment as commission chairman.
- I mailed contracts to summer employees as approved by the commission. I have received signed contracts from the two summer camp employees and from two lifeguards. Contracts are due back by April 4, 2016.
- The Board of Selectmen has approved the dates for the 2016 summer concert series.
- I have confirmed two bands for the summer concert series and am awaiting confirmation of a third. I forwarded you an inquiry from a fourth band.
- I again contacted the Chamber of Commerce and confirmed details of the summer concert series.
- I wrote to Sally Ketcham on behalf of the commission regarding the platform tennis court proposal.
- The Emery Park pool work was done in 2005, making the longevity of the existing swimming area until 2025-2030. Please keep in mind the town's five-year capital plan is funded for the coming five years but includes projects as much as ten years out so ideally the commission should have a figure to insert into next year's plan in the tenth year out.

From the director:

**After-School Program:** The February attendance again exceeded the prior year's monthly total. The youngsters are able to get outside more with the nicer weather. Homework continues to be a focus. I have added another student who is receiving scholarship assistance through the Kent Community Fund. The program will not meet March 24-25 when Kent Center School is closed for Easter. Communication continues to be excellent between the staff and myself. I worked at the program two days this week and enjoyed being with the students who overall are a great group of youngsters. They are cooperative and appreciative.

**Seniors:** The outing this month was a trip to Ollie's Discount Center in Waterbury and the Westfield Mall in Meriden to shop at Boscov's which opened there last fall. We also had lunch at the mall and had time to shop at other stores. The seniors agree they wouldn't be interested in returning to Ollie's and Boscov's is a nice store,

similar in many respects to Kohl's (perhaps better prices at Boscov's). I have mailed out flyer for the 2016 Goodspeed trips and for the senior suppers at New Milford Hospital, which will resume in May. Leah Pullaro and I compiled and sent out the March/April senior newsletter. We will be working on encouraging more seniors to sign up for email editions of the newsletter and to identify sponsors to print the newsletter for us and/or pay for postal for the mailing. The Friday senior lunch program resumes April 1. Leah and I are working on programming for the Friday lunches and are working with Kent Center School music department on bringing students to the center for a musical performance this spring. Tentative plans involve the third grade recorder students visiting the center in April. The Leap Day luncheon at the Senior Center was fun and I handed out frog key chains and squirt frogs.

**Budget:** The selectmen have approved a budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2016-17, and the Park and Recreation budget was approved as submitted. Salaries for town employees are proposed to increase by 3% across the board. The selectmen have said they would be reviewing the process by which employee salary increases are given after budget season ends. The first selectman will be doing some research and talking with the other area first selectmen about how salary increases are determined in their respective towns.

**Parks:** The commission has discussed holding a public forum to solicit feedback from the community on the swimming area of the future. Jerry Decker and I are working on getting some estimates for cost of installing a chlorinated pool. This item remains on the agenda. I heard Kent Center School is going to offer a tennis program this spring because girls aren't interested in softball and the school hasn't had a softball program in a few years. The program would meet at the town courts, and I think it will be a positive thing for the park and the courts. I have asked the first selectman to find out from CIRMA if Park and Recreation needs to have any liability certificate from the school.

**Fee Programs:** The second session of figure skating lessons ended Feb. 27. I sent a thank you note to Kent School and Todd Marble, director of athletics, for use of the ice rink again this winter. The Sunday afternoon skating at South Kent School continues until April 17. The next session of Tang Soo Do classes is scheduled to begin at the end of April.

**Regional Recreation directors:** We met March 1 in Sharon. Cornwall, Kent and Sharon are working cooperatively on forming baseball teams for major and minor leagues. It does not appear the three towns have enough players interested in playing major little league – we have perhaps three or four players qualified to play in that league – so we will work together on forming a team to put in the minor league. I have eight registrations to date with the deadline of March 15. The season may be able to start in early April if the weather holds.

**Sports:** The basketball season ended Feb. 27 with the last Saturday game (another close one) and a short awards' ceremony. Thank you to Jerry and Billy McCann for their hard work again this season and their willingness to work with the ever changing schedule. The Tuesday evening games seemed to work well and most of the games were very close (2-3 point differentials). I am still receiving registration for the kindergarten, first and second-third grade baseball programs and expect these programs will have enough players to sustain themselves.

**Summer Concert Series:** I spoke with Peter D'Aprile of the Kent Chamber of Commerce regarding the summer concert series and sent him an email outlining the commission's interest in offering the series again this summer and inviting the chamber to co-sponsor the series with Park and Recreation.

**Director PTO:** I will be requesting paid time off days in April. This is on the agenda.

Looking ahead ...

- Town Hall offices will be closed March 25.
- The Easter Egg Hunt is March 19; inclement weather date is March 26.
- Summer camp registration opens May 18.

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