

**PARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 15, 2007**

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)	John Scippa
Kevin Bellows	Louann Riccio
Anthony Chmielewski	

Also,  
First Selectman Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr.  
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris  
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests:  
Mike Piquette, Canoe Brook Lake Assoc.  
Janine Salvey, Canoe Brook Lake Assoc.  
Don Bell, Canoe Brook Lake Assoc.  
Bill Reppenhagen, Little League President  
Tony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road  
James Wang, Greater Bpt. Regional Planning Agency Ex. Dir.  
Sue Silver, CT. Post Reporter

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mike Piquette, 18 Lantern Hill Road, on behalf of the Canoe Brook Lake Association:

Mr. Piquette distributed the original correspondence of February 2007 requesting permission to install a trail through the Great Oak Park property. He had a large map of the park with the figure 8 trail indicated. Most of the trail is a current scrub path, dotted lines included indicating new trail sections to connect the system. He indicated that they have run this by Brian Smith in the Town Engineering Department and have moved the trail slightly away from the wetlands. The Park Commission at that time approved the concept of a Trail System in Great Oak Park. They are now requesting permission to complete the proposed trail system.

In the interim, two of their group, Don Bell and he, have completed a Trail Making Workshop conducted on the Aspetuck Trail in Newtown. Only a few changes in the original request have been made to move the trail away from the wetlands and onto the sewer easement precluding the need for a "footbridge" over wetlands. They have a new report from the DEP Fisheries on their sampling of the brook through Great Oak Park which has determined there are 10 species of fish in that brook. They indicated they have submitted a funding application to the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$50,000. They are awaiting passage approval.

Chairman questioned:

- Is the proposed trail “flagged” so Park Commissioners can walk the site? He said yes, with orange flags, to all but the new section, which they will have done.
- Do we have Wetlands approval in writing? No, verbal from Brian Smith.

Chairman indicated that the Park Commission policy is to meet Wetlands requirements and asked to have a copy of the trail map for presentation to the Inland Wetlands Commission for its review and approval prior to Park Commission approval of the proposed formal trail system in Great Oak Park.

Questions:

Where is parking for the trail?

1. 4/5 cars off Dayton Road. Needs opening up and gravel.
2. 5 cars from Sally Ann Drive. Needs clearing.
3. They should have at least a 20' x 60' parking area.

Dr. Bellows questioned, could someone jog on that path at least ½ mile or more? Not at this time. It's more a walk trail.

Chairman indicated that once we receive the map with engineering specifics of the proposed trail indicated, the Commission will review the proposal and pass it on to the Inland Wetlands Commission for its review prior to Park Commission's final approval.

Anthony D'Aquila, 20 Valley View Road:

He addressed the trail proposal for Great Oak Park. Briefed the long history of proposals since the 1980's for that park. Felt this Commission should have a clear and concise plan of development for Great Oak Park...is it a community park, a neighborhood park or a park for the entire town? He, in fact, has over these many years had a change in thought on how the park should be developed. In the 1980's he proposed a passive park for the area, and now feels a “general use” park would be better. He feels that the Commission should revert back to its 1978 original plan of development for parks, which called for a park within walking distance (one mile) of every neighborhood...the desire of the close-community residents should be considered. He now suggests a multi-use park for Great Oak Park with some play fields included.

First Selectman Baldwin stepped-in at the meeting and noted that in the 1980's, he favored ball fields for this location; however, now, with frequent flooding occurrences, the need for flood control and retention of our wetland locations must take precedence. He feels that this water-shed area should be preserved to alleviate flooding concerns down-river. He noted that the Town is currently having a professional study of flood plain initiatives for Trumbull.

Mr. Scippa commented that we have 19 designated parks in the Town of Trumbull. This parcel is approximately 70 acres. He questioned if Mr. D'Aquila is, in fact, asking to see something more than a trail system in that park?

Mr. D'Aquila indicated it should be for "mixed use" with a meadow area cleared.

Jeannine Salvey, President, Canoe Brook Lake Association, 178 Driftwood Lane:  
Their association represents 200 families around Canoe Brook Lake and friends of Great Oak Park. Their vision for the park is for the local community and the town. They have a tremendous amount of support for this proposition. There are some open areas in the proposal and feel this is the answer for the Town of Trumbull as a whole not just for one group. They are looking to protect the water bodies all the way down stream. This is for the whole community not for "just local" around the park.

Bill Reppenhagen, President of Trumbull Little League, 115 Paugusette Circle:  
Received our letter on planning and permits for construction projects, noted that Little League will comply. He reviewed their proposed fund raiser to install a brick apron around the press box /concession stand at Unity Park. They plan for 3,000 bricks over a three-year period. If approved, they will begin in time for this coming season.

Superintendent requested an engineering plan with measurements, type of border material, etc. and time frame for various quadroons to be installed in the long-range project to ensure proper installation and drainage. He will work with them in this regard.

Superintendent noted that the lock on the building needs to have the cylinder repaired. Mr. Reppenhagen indicated they are going to replace with a "key pad", but will have the key-cylinder repaired or replaced.

James Wang, Greater Bpt. Regional Planning Agency on Rail Trails Project:  
He indicated that the Rail Trail is progressing nicely with areas from Whitney Avenue, Parlor Rock and Old Mine Park nearly complete. Sections of Monroe near completion as well. Several sections through lower Trumbull still need to be accomplished. The Trail will now be brought in from Bridgeport to Trumbull. Trumbull's indication that the project is acceptable and is consistent with park-related use is now required to allow their engineering firm to initiate the design of the rail trail through a small section of Unity lower level and Twin Brooks.

The construction will take place over the next two years. Consultants and engineers will be in close contact with the Town of Trumbull's engineering department and Park Commission as the route is defined. Much consideration will be devoted to getting the trail over or under the Merritt Parkway and Route 25 Connector or alternatives utilizing border parkland and White Plains Road for a distance.

The Park Superintendent has worked closely with the project through our northern-parklands noting it is a "stellar" project. Mr. Scippa stated that looking forward to the project's completion is exciting.

Mr. Wang explained there will be no “matching” funding required by Trumbull as both Monroe and Bridgeport grants are being applied to the project.

Chairman thanked Mr. Wang for his briefing indicating the Commission will act on his request this evening.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to close the Public Comment portion of the Agenda.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve the minutes as distributed of the September meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Request from the Canoe Brook Lake Association to initiate a trail system in Great Oak Park.  
A copy of the engineering plan and specifics of the clearing proposed was requested this evening, once received we will walk the flagged trail and will have the Inland Wetland’s Commission review the plans prior to consideration of this current proposal.

Mr. Chmielewski commented that back several years ago he originally was in favor of constructing ball fields in this park; however, now he is not in favor of touching woodland at all. He does not agree with a neighboring association taking over the open parkland and feels it should be left in a natural state.

Superintendent commented that there is an existing trail system in there already ranging from 18” wide to wider. This group is looking to connect the broken trails...to allow for walking. The topography is not conducive to jogging.

Mr. Scippa commented that we have already defended the right to do nothing at this time in the Park as we don’t know what future needs will develop dictating improvements.

Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency Request for Permission to continue the Rail Trail Project through lower Unity and Twin Brooks parklands.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed that the Rail Trail Project through lower Unity and Twin Brooks parklands is acceptable and is consistent with current park-related use, and we allow their engineering firm to initiate the final design and begin the project at that location with periodic consultation with the Town of Trumbull engineering and Park Commission.

Little League Request for Approval of Engraved Bricks Fund Raiser:

**MOTION** by Mr. Scippa, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed, to accept in principal the Little League fund raiser proposal to install engraved patio bricks around the Unity Park Concession Stand/Press Box *conditioned upon receipt of project plans with specific details for construction and approval by the Town's engineering Department prior to final approval by the Park Commission.*

Pay Telephones In Town Parks:

Superintendent has been in contact with the new provider of Pay Telephones in Town parks. We currently have 4 in our parks, one each at structures in Island Brook, Twin Brooks, Tashua and Indian Ledge. The cost is \$50 per month each. The question of continuing these has come about because of the use of cellular telephones and is there a need. Most of our park areas are "dead" zones without ability to receive or call out and his recommendation is that we continue to provide these for emergency situations in our park area.

**CONSENSUS OF AGREEMENT.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Greenbelt Maintenance – Tashua Recreation Area:

Chairman and Superintendent met with two members of the Golf Course Commission and their maintenance supervisor and have agreed to re-visit the old agreement on maintenance of the grounds around the recreational facilities at Tashua. It was agreed that this maintenance is a collaborative effort and the Superintendent will communicate with the Golf Course Superintendent more frequently in this regard.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Department on the edge of shutting down facilities for the winter season.
- All water irrigation systems, sprinkler parks and lavatories need to be drained and winterized.
- Island Brook field heavy construction winding down.
- We will seed the field in the next several weeks. Will be ready for play in the Spring of 2009.
- We are in process of planting 36 trees to frame out the facility and along the stream, 8" caliper, mitigating 27 trees removed with the drainage project.
- Irrigation installed. Currently testing the lines, with some needing correction.
- Woodland-type guard rail installed around the play field to guard against vehicular access.
- Tashua Courts finally being completed.
- New fencing in around the court area.
- Faulty asphalt at upper Tashua, Unity being watched. Contractor hoping the oily problem will work its way out.
- Leaf Collections about to begin. We will initially be releasing two people for the program (we rotate throughout the leaf season).
- Indian ledge softball field had sod replaced as well as Babe Ruth Unity field.

Chief Ranger :

Chief Ranger Robert Hawley requested an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to enter Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a Personnel Matter. Present were Park Commissioners Robert Ferrigno, John Scippa, Kevin Bellows, Louann Riccio and Anthony Chmielewski and Chief Park Ranger Robert Hawley.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Riccio and unanimously passed at 9:15 to end executive session to discuss a personnel matter brought by Chief Park Ranger Robert Hawley and return to the order of the Agenda at 9:15 p.m.

Superintendent noted that the Rail Trail is really going to be a marvelous addition to the Pequonnock River Valley. We will be getting new signs through the program for Old Mine Park, Parlor Rock Park and the Pequonnock Valley Entrance Signs as an added bonus. He suggested all get out there and walk the new spectacular path. Surveyed up to 50/75 per week day on each section of trails and 200/300 on weekends.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Asst.

**PARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 15, 2007  
MOTIONS**

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Scippa, unanimously passed to close the Public Comment portion of the Agenda.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve the minutes as distributed of the September meeting.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrs. Riccio, unanimously passed that the Rail Trail Project through lower Unity and Twin Brooks parklands is acceptable and is consistent with current park-related use and we allow their engineering firm to initiate the final design and begin the project at that location with periodic consultation with the Town of Trumbull engineering and Park Commission.

Little League Request for Approval of Engraved Bricks Fund Raiser:

**MOTION** by Mr. Scippa, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed, to accept in principal the Little League fund raiser proposal to install engraved patio bricks around the Unity Park Concession Stand/Press Box *conditioned upon receipt of project plans with specific details for construction and approval by the Town's engineering Department prior to final approval by the Park Commission.*

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to enter Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a Personnel Matter. Present were Park Commissioners Robert Ferrigno, John Scippa, Kevin Bellows, Louann Riccio and Anthony Chmielewski and Chief Park Ranger Robert Hawley.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Mrs. Riccio and unanimously passed at 9:15 to end executive session to discuss a personnel matter brought by Chief Park Ranger Robert Hawley and return to the order of the Agenda at 9:15 p.m.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Mr. Chmielewski, second by Dr. Bellows and unanimously approved.