



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
February 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.



Via Remote Participation

Commissioners Present: Jane DeBarbieri, Scott LaBombard, Kenneth Magarian, Douglas Morash, Vincent Olinski, Michael Tirrell, (Logged in shortly after) Sara Unger and Robert Veronesi

Staff: Jim Blascak, Program Coordinator

City Councilors: Nicholas Morganelli, Liaison and David Flaherty

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. via remote participation with Kenneth Magarian, Pro-Tempore presiding asking commissioners for a voice roll call by calling out a "Yes".

Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes

Kenneth Magarian, read out loud the updated open meeting laws as presented on agenda.

Kenneth Magarian asked if anyone had any questions regarding the zoom January 11, 2021 minutes and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to accept the minutes of January 11, 2021 motion seconded by Scott LaBombard, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes
Motion passed.

Public Participation via zoom:

1. Joseph Delaney-Westfield Veterans Council renewal permits
2. Tanley Santiago-Westfield FC Soccer renewal permit
3. Juanita Carnes-Chair of Health Dept. Silent vigil at Park Square with battery operated candle lights around fountain
4. Jeff Burke-Westfield Skate Park Rehab
5. Cheryl Crowe-Concerns at Hampton Ponds Playground and curfew-lights ordinance outdated at Playgrounds for the police to issue no tress pass orders.
6. Ray Hilaire-Hampton Ponds Playground concerns and increased cars/people activity after hours into the early morning hours. Curfew hours are dusk to dawn.
7. David Flaherty-Westfield Pickleball representative renewal permits

Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Kenneth Magarian, welcomed Joseph Delaney- Westfield Veterans Council on permit requests for the 2021 Veteran Events and asked him to go over them. Joseph Delaney responded these permits are the same as last year's permits except last year we had to go virtual due to COVID-19. He went over the following permits at Elizabeth Parker Memorial Park: April 3 at 1:00 will hold the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, Memorial Day and parade if held this year we will march to Parker Memorial Park at 11:00 p.m., September 11th at 7:00 p.m. for the POW/MIA Candlelight Recognition Day, November

11 at 11:00 a.m. for Veterans Day and on December 7 at 10:30 a.m. at the Kane & Wojtkiewicz Park. He also brought up a new event from the American Legion Post is to hold an Easter Egg Hunt for Veteran families on April 3 times 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with about 40 people. They are going to invite the Barnes airport base families to join other Veteran families and they will follow COVID-19 city/state guidelines. He said if inclement weather we may have a drive through Easter Egg Hunt and handout bags of eggs and candy. Kenneth Magarian asked if anyone had any questions and if anyone wanted to set motion.

2. Michael Tirrell logged in on via zoom and asked Kenneth Magarian if he wanted to continue as Pro-Tempore running the meeting or if he wanted him to take over as Chairperson it did not matter to him. (It was decided between the both that Kenneth Magarian would continue running the meeting)

Motion made by Vincent Olinski to accept the 2021 Veteran Veterans Council event permits as presented motion seconded by Michael Tirrell. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes

Motion passed.

3. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Tanley Santaniello-Westfield FC Soccer requesting a renewal permit for the Woronoco Soccer Complex fields March 30 through November 20. Sunday- Saturday times 8:00 a.m.-Dusk. Tanley Santaniello went over the league and mentioned that last year with COVID-19 they were able to play with guidelines and offered clinics for children by offering scrimmages and mini camps in the spring that was open to all children who wanted to play soccer from grades 2 through 4 with a pretty good turnout. She went over that the Westfield FC Soccer is a travel league and they start to play with practices and games in the spring all the way into the fall months and last year's season was pretty successful. (Vincent Olinski held up the permit for commission to view) Jane DeBarbieri asked about the location and it was explained to her.
4. Kenneth Magarian asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Westfield FC Soccer permit as presented and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Douglas Morash to accept Westfield FC Soccer's permit motion seconded by Jane DeBarbieri, Roll call vote as follows: Scott LaBombard, yes, Kenneth Magarian yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes and Sara Unger yes. Motion passed.
5. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Juanita Carnes, Health Dept. Chairperson who is requesting a permit for Park Square or "The Green". She explained the event is to hold a silent tribute to community members who lost their lives due to COVID-19 and the date on permit is February 14, the reason the health board members picked Valentine's Day for the event because it is simply a tribute to all the COVID-19 deaths we've had in Westfield, 95 to date. She explained she would place battery operated candles around the fountain and requested to display a banner across the stage area.
6. Michael Tirrell said he spoke with Juanita Carnes two weeks prior to the meeting with notification of the positive community event because she had to order supplies and advertise and that this would be a silent event with no people.
7. Juanita Carnes asked the commission for approval to place banners up earlier than the event date and it will be placed in the area near the stage, times are 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She explained there will be no gathering of people and the city might see a little more traffic increase during these times and said she also contacted the Police Dept. regarding the event. She asked the commission if it was possible to dim or shut off the lights during the vigil at Park Square in order for the battery-operated candles to light the way for the vigil.

8. Kenneth Magarian explained we have other groups that come before us requesting earlier advertising banners in advance and we have to follow guideline the commission has in place. We generally hesitate on this request and whatever concessions we make to any group we treat them all the same. He said we can't approved one permittee sign/banner request and not the other. His suggestion to Juniata Carnes and her board members they can put banners/signage up at 5:00 a.m. in the morning that day of event if they want to but not any earlier. He explained another reason the commission has signage/banners guidelines in place, is if you put it up earlier then the event date it could get vandalized or taken in the evening hours, so to be safe the day of the event would be the best time to place banners up. Also, there were some terrific messages on banners and not so terrific messages on banners in the past and said there are some bad people out there that would do this type of horrible thing. Kenneth Magarian praised Juanita Carnes and her board members saying this is a fantastic event that you are doing for the community. Juanita Carnes thanked the commission and said the timing of not having banners up the day of the event all made sense to her.
9. Michael Tirrell said he will reach out to Scott Hathaway, Deputy Supt. who is not here tonight about having the lights dimmed or shut off at Park Square for the event and that he will get a hold of Juanita Carnes with a follow up.

Kenneth Magarian asked for a roll call vote and if anyone had any questions regarding the February 14 silent tribute at Park Square and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to accept the permit request as presented motion seconded by Robert Veronesi, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes
Motion passed.

10. Kenneth Magarian brought up William "Bill" Babinski request for the Municipal Playground Horseshoe permit renewal and asked if he was here tonight via zoom. There was no answer and suggested he come back next month if he forgot about the meeting tonight or we can approve this permit.
11. Michael Tirrell said he is in favor of approving the permit tonight since William Babinski comes before us every year for approval of the Municipal Horseshoe courts and he went over dates and times April 19 - September 20 times 5:30 p.m.-9:30 a.m. with up to 16 to 24 participants.
12. Robert Veronesi said he disagrees we make everyone come before us for approval.
13. Vincent Olinski said possibly he does not have access to modern technology we don't know.
14. Douglas Morash said he agrees this request has been at least 30 years of renewals.
15. Scott LaBombard said we should not force people to attend via zoom as long as we have the permit.
16. Michael Tirrell said when we are back at city hall holding our commission meetings we can ask people to attend in person. He is asking for a vote if it fails we can have him attend via zoom next month that is if William Babinski has the technology to do so.
17. Kenneth Magarian asked for a roll call vote to approve permit. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Douglas Morash to accept the permit request for William Babinski Westfield Horseshoe Club at Municipal Playground as presented motion seconded by Scott LaBombard, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes

Motion passed.

18. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Jeff Burke Westfield Skate Park rehab request. Jeff Burke said he does not live in Westfield any more, but may return someday to start a family he was a graduate of Westfield High School and now lives in Quincy, MA for 5 years now. He said when he lived in Westfield he was a big skateboarder and still is today and actually attended the Westfield Skateboard grand opening in 2001 where Al Ferst donated large funds to get the project built. He said now the skateboard park is not safe and whoever built it was not a skateboarder or a skateboarder contractor who specializes in building skate parks. He is here tonight and has talked to Scott Hathaway, Deputy Supt. several times about the skate park and wanted to attend a commission meeting before but living and the travel from Quincy, MA was difficult. Zoom has worked out well for him tonight. Jeff Burke explained he has been involved with other communities to rebuild or build modern safe skate parks that kids and families would actually use. He helped launch a new skate park in Quincy, MA and recently he has been working and helping the town of Easthampton, MA who is building a skate park. He would like to see the Westfield Skate Park updated and safer for families and kids to use.
19. Scott LaBombard said we recently had an artist come before us for a request to repaint the skate park with artwork.
20. Jeff Burke said possibly people/kids they don't respect the skate park anymore because it is outdated and there are now more modern different types of ramps, styles and there are new graffiti paint materials that can now protect the paint.
21. Douglas Morash said he grew up in Quincy, MA and has had fond memories and asked how much the budget was to build a skate park there.
22. Jeff Burke said \$ 500,000 one of the reasons it was such a high price tag was they had to pay staff prevailing wages in Eastern, MA. They also wanted to build a knockout skate park. He explained this is not the going rate cost you can build can go big or small as you want. A lot of towns are creating smaller areas in parks where it is legal to skateboard and not get a fine or ticketed.
23. Michael Tirrell said he has seen his name on previous agendas and glad he was able to join via zoom tonight which is so much easier for you. He asked Jeff Burke what his proposition is for us tonight we had someone request to do artwork to beautify the skate park and what would you like to see done and how would we fund it and who would oversee the project.
24. Jeff Burke said he is asking the commission to explore and get options and to put it on your radar that it is currently not safe to use. There are a lot of families going to other towns to skate board such as Agawam, Northampton they are not using the Westfield Skate Park. He is asking the commission to get the conversation started and he would work with Scott Hathaway, Deputy Supt. and possibly start a committee of a rehab design and to build interest with the community. He said I'm not here to shut down the Westfield Skate Park it is unsafe with sharp angles and it is steep someone can get hurt.
25. Robert Veronesi said if it is unsafe in the current one then we need to see where we can correct it.
26. Michael Tirrell said he is requesting motion to support the rehab due to safety reasons and move forward with options and committees.
27. Jane DeBarbieri asked Jeff Burke how other towns received funding is there grant money the city can apply for. Jeff Burke said the town of Quincy received a grant from the Tony Hawke Foundation and they will match up to \$ 25,000. There are also federal block grants and some towns use community

preservation act funds. This is what the town of Easthampton applied for and they are considering using some funds raised from taxes on marijuana.

28. Michael Tirrell said he and Vincent Olinski represent the committee on the Community Preservation Commission and they would be happy to petition them for funds. They would need a plan in place with estimates and actual quotes to do that. He said we would be happy to work with Jeff Burke and if he can get us examples of designs and quotes from previous projects to work with that would be great. He said it sounds like we need to work on this together and make the rehab happen.
29. Jeff Burke said he will contact the town of Sandwich, MA who recently used Preservation funds and get back to us at another meeting.
30. Kenneth Magarian suggested that Jeff Burke team up with a liaison of the Parks and Recreation committee and think about another virtual meeting of interested parties. He is requesting he come back to the commission with a very general, superficial outline and presentation then it would be appropriate for us as a commission to say "yes" to the rehab for a safer updated Westfield Skate Park. We would have to look at the land and all city land on the current site if we demolish the old one.
31. Michael Tirrell volunteered to be the liaison for the project with Jeff Burke and bring it to Scott Hathaway to move forward with the request. Jeff Burke said he pledges to work on the Westfield Skate Park and will report back to the commission regarding grants, CPA funds or preservation funds used at other towns/cities to build skate parks. The commissioners thanked him.
32. Kenneth Magarian said no vote is needed on this at this time and thanked Jeff Burke for his presentation tonight.
33. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Cheryl Crowe who is here tonight regarding the parks, playground hours. She noted that hours are dawn to dusk unless have a permit approved with city lights and curfew ordinance 11-73 for police to take notice and the Hampton Ponds Playground and her neighborhood concerns. Cheryl Crowe said first she wanted to thank the commission for the support of the Harold Grinspoon tree art sculpture, it looks great and is well received with the city. She is here tonight regarding the problem with the current city ordinance section 11-73 curfew times for police to take notice is 10:30 p.m. She read out loud: Section 11-73 Curfew- Closing time for all lighted public parks or playgrounds and all school grounds shall be 10:30 p.m. a) No person shall, in any park or playground, all school grounds, be present after the closing time for such park or playground. (b) Closing time for all non-lighted public parks or playgrounds shall be dusk. (c) Closing time for all lighted public parks or playgrounds, all school grounds shall be 10:30p.m. (d) Closing time for all parks and playgrounds, all school grounds, at which department sanctioned events take place shall be one-half hour after sanctioned event terminates. Then she read ordinance 11-66 Public Park defined: Whenever the words "public park" are used in this chapter they shall be understood as included: Apremont Park, Chauncey Allen Park, Clay Hill Park, Grandmothers Garden, General Shepard Park, General Wareham Park, Holcomb Park, Tekoa Park, and Wojtkiewicz Park. Also included are the historic cemeteries East Mountain Cemetery, Mechanic Street Cemetery, Mundale Cemetery. All public parks are shown on the city's assessor's map. She explained to commissioners the two ordinances are confusing and out of date and they should be together listing updated names of parks and playgrounds. She is suggesting to change ordinance 11-73 "Curfew" to include playgrounds and closing of all lighted parks as well as schools are open from dawn to dusk. And sanctioned events get approved until 10:30 p.m. She said this brings up the question as to what is considered a lighted park. Hampton Ponds has no lights only security parking lot lights.
34. Kenneth Magarian said to Cheryl Crowe you are requesting to encompass both ordinances not separate and updated names of all parks, playgrounds or schools.

35. Vincent Olinski said a lot of this stems from when the Park Department and the Recreation Dept. had two separate departments and two set of rules. When the two departments merged together he now feels it definitely needs to be rectified.
36. Kenneth Magarian says the problem is both parks and playgrounds have the same rules on our permit use of area form regarding to curfews. (# 18 emailed) All parks/playgrounds are dusk to dawn unless areas is lighted for night play than hours are until 10:45 p.m.
37. Cheryl Crowe said the problem is that Hampton Ponds Playground where she has worked hard in getting a new playground in years ago with help from Jim Blascak and community funds raised it is all getting ruined. Security lights were added and put in by the Gas & Electric Co. in the rear parking lot but the fields are not lit. The problem is when she has called the police dept. on kids at the playgrounds at night the police say they can't do anything because the ordinance under curfew says closes at 10:30 p.m. She said we need to update and change the curfew ordinance for Hampton Ponds playground dawn to dusk. It should be closed at dusk so the police can enforce those rules. She said she has walked her dog at dusk and has seen with her own eyes guns on the front seats of vehicles parked there and that is dangerous and very scary to see and she has called the police several times.
38. Ray Hilaire who lives at 120 Old Stage Road said he lives across the Street from Hampton Ponds Playground he works at Barnes Airport and he comes home at 11:00 p.m. or midnight and he sees cars parked in the back of the woods and they can't be up to anything good. He reminded commission where a school bus was stolen from W. Springfield and the kids were doing donuts in the Hampton Ponds parking lot ripping up the parking lot and shot off into the woods and was found to be a stolen bus. He said back in the former Mayor Knapik days children pointed out to him needles in the park. He brought them to the Mayor's office and asked for his help in getting more police control. He said he is a regular caller to the police dept. regarding people in the park and when he calls police they drive up there but do not kick them out because he was told the ordinance is until 10:30 p.m. He feels sorry for his neighbors because the people shine their high beams right into their houses when parking in the parking lot after dusk. They actually fear for their lives. He sees sometimes up to 25 kids/people after midnight and they should not be in there. He said to the commission our concern is very frustrating for himself, Cheryl and his neighbors and is requesting the curfew ordinances be updated and changed to dawn to dusk at both playgrounds and parks and list Hampton Ponds as a playground so the police can enforce after dusk. He wished the people in there would get a high fine so they would pass onto to their buddies to stay out of Hampton Ponds Playground at night.
39. Cheryl Crowe said the drug activity has stepped up at Hampton Ponds playground along with drinking and it is not nice at all for the neighbors who live there. The police always bring up the lights ordinance so they can't force them out. She says there is an increase in trash dumping all over and they are disrespectful to the playground.
40. Ray Hilaire said he is simply asking the commission to change the city ordinance regarding curfews and that something needs to be done soon at the Hampton Ponds Playground after hours.
41. Scott LaBombard said it is under our jurisdiction to review or change these ordinances.
42. Nicholas Morganelli says you would need to clarify the definition of existing parks and playgrounds and have the ordinance written the correct way and suggest the help from the law dept. and once we have it presented he can bring it up to city council and city ordinance members for the change.
43. David Flaherty said recently the City Council has looked into the listing of a definition of a park due to the Rail Trail and some people consider traffic islands as a park. He is suggesting to bring it to the

planning board, city council and a zoning change of what this commission would like changed. He also said as a caution you have to be very careful because playgrounds can receive certain grant money and not parks and suggests the commission would need to do research first because you want to do it the right way.

44. Michael Tirrell said this is a concerning situation and we don't know the advantage this will have if we separate these two ordinances around grant money. He told Cheryl Crowe and Ray Hilaire that the commission supports what they have both brought to them tonight and will it bring forward and we want to fix this. All parks are dusk to dawn and does not ring right with him.
45. Vincent Olinski brought up security lights are not considered night play or lit recreational lights.
46. Michael Tirrell said if we close at dusk the police can do something maybe we should install a gate and why would anyone be in there in the winter time, and said nobody should be in there with snow on the ground.
47. Robert Veronesi responded that we had the same problem at Cross Street Playground there are no lights to play night ball we installed a wooden fence and at Whitney Playground there is a gate no one can get in.
48. Michael Tirrell agreed there are is no lights at Cross Street and we have no night play.
49. Ray Hilaire voiced his concern if we put a gate up at Hampton Ponds Playground there are other places where they get in with dirt bikes and quads through the woods. He asked what if there was an emergency how would police or ambulance get in the playground. He said that would be great if a gate was installed. He just wants the police to enforce people/kids out at night and make the police dept. aware that this playground should be open dusk to dawn. His concern is it is now a daily occurrence, he calls the police with people in that playground at night and at times he is calling at 1:00 a.m. in the morning or longer it is very frustrating. He said he wonders if fines are given out.
50. Robert Veronesi said when we put the gates up at Whitney Playground it solved the problem people cannot get in, we also have this problem at Municipal not just the Hampton Ponds Playground.
51. Cheryl Crowe says the problem is we get the license plate numbers for the police quite a bit but until the ordinance regarding curfew time is made they will do nothing until after 10:30 p.m. She said that is the reason we put in the security lights because the drug dealers were going in after hours. It has come to this point where it is out of control and she feels bad for her neighbors who are very scared.
52. Michael Tirrell brought up Vincent Olinski's comments regarding what is a non-lighted public park or playground as opposed to a public park or playground that has security lighting and if we can show that Hampton Ponds Playground should be classified as a non-lighted area this should solve the problem. Then as far as the curfew ordinance goes police should enforce the dawn to dusk.
53. Kenneth Magarian said I can't see why this board can't just go thought all the parks and playgrounds list names and say this is a lighted field for night play or this is a non-lit field (only security lighting) because we said so.
54. Cheryl Crowe said Section 11-66 we went back and forth on this and there is no actual definition as a park or playground and there is a big difference.
55. Scott LaBombard said the permit has Hampton Ponds playground listed as a playground. Cheryl Crowe said it has always been Hampton Ponds Playground.

56. Kenneth Magarian brought up Sadie Knox Playground is a lit for night play and the police are there all the time kicking people out so not sure why they won't enforce the same guidelines at Hampton Ponds Playground.
57. Cheryl Crowe said the police are going by the existing curfew ordinance they have until 10:30 p.m. they can't kick them out they say. The people have so many different ways of getting into that playground at night from the woods. The quads have so many areas to get in from the woods there is not enough leverage to put up a gate everywhere.
58. Robert Veronesi said then let's find all those ways in and install gates so there is no access in.
59. Ray Hilaire said there are so many trails made in that area it is impossible to block off.
60. Cheryl Crowe said to commission you need to come up there and see what Ray and I are talking about to fully understand the areas where people can get in from.
61. Ray Hilaire says he remembered when the Hampton Ponds Playground 5 acres of land was just a sand pit and when the pavilion went in, picnic tables it was just beautiful. In the 1980's the kids ruined it and it needed to be policed he said he actually calls the police dept. every night now they know me by name and it is very frustrating not to get the people out of the playground at night.
62. Robert Veronesi suggested cameras.
63. Scott LaBombard said we can check with the law dept. and go from there and get a definition of the ordinance regarding lights for night play and security lighting only.
64. Kenneth Magarian suggested a sub-committee of three to get this going as soon as we can.
65. Nicholas Morganelli looked at the ordinance and said he agrees the police need to enforce dusk to dawn and if the commission have any suggestions for him he can send off to the Legislative and Ordinance members and make recommendation with the city council. He said this commission can start to work on this because of the concerns and he is onboard to help make that change.
66. David Flaherty said it would be useful if we have a up to date listing of all parks or playgrounds.
67. Michael Tirrell read the curfew ordinance again out loud. City ordinance Section 11-73 Curfew- Closing time for all lighted public parks or playgrounds and all school grounds shall be 10:30 p.m. a) No person shall, in any park or playground, all school grounds, be present after the closing time for such park or playground. (b) Closing time for all non-lighted public parks or playgrounds shall be dusk. (c) Closing time for all lighted public parks or playgrounds, all school grounds shall be 10:30p.m. (d) Closing time for all parks and playgrounds, all school grounds, at which department sanctioned events take place shall be one-half hour after sanctioned event terminates. Then he read ordinance 11-66. Public Park defined: Whenever the words "public park" are used in this chapter they shall be understood as included: Apremont Park, Chauncey Allen Park, Clay Hill Park, Grandmothers Garden, General Shepard Park, General Wareham Park, Holcomb Park, Tekoa Park, and Wojtkiewicz Park. Also included are the historic cemeteries East Mountain Cemetery, Mechanic Street Cemetery, Mundale Cemetery. He said he will get the opinion of the Law dept. on lights and non-lit area will report back at the next meeting in March.
68. Jim Blascak said in the back of the brochure is a listing of the parks and playgrounds with designated lights listed. Hampton Ponds playground has security lights only it does not have lights for night

play. Municipal, Papermill, Sadie Knox, and Whitney and Bullens have lit night play. He said you are better saying what playgrounds are considered lit or for night play because playgrounds with parking lot lights are not considered lighted fields. We also have parks that are lit with lights.

69. Scott LaBombard said he will work with Michael Tirrell and the law dept. to get this straighten out.
70. Douglas Morash said if it would help Michael Tirrell and Scott LaBombard to have a clear definition of a lighted park or playground we can specify with an up to date list to either change the ordinance or just list what are considered non lit and call it a day. Then the police can have stricter enforcement.
71. Ray Hilaire said I'm not here for myself on the issues at Hampton Ponds Playground I'm here on behalf of all my neighbors.
72. Kenneth Magarian said I don't think we need to set a motion here until the sub-committee have a clear definition from the Law dept. of a lighted park or playground.
73. Cheryl Crowe and Ray Hilaire thanked the commission for their support and it looks like we can move forward and she will wait until next month on the sub-committee results. Michael Tirrell said he will update her as well.
74. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Dave Flaherty pickle ball representative for Municipal Playground and asked him to go over the renewal permits.
75. David Flaherty said these are the same permits as last year Tuesdays and Thursdays Feb. 9 – Dec. 31 times 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (Amend time) up to 45 players, permit March 1 – Nov. 5 times 5:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. are for Mondays, women play, Wednesday's men play and Fridays are a mix league. The last time we did this it filled up both courts. Feb. 9 – Dec. 31 times 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday-Sunday. He said Saturdays are the busiest times on the pickle ball courts and this program is the fastest growing sport in America and he sees faces here tonight that play pickle ball. He says people are actually clearing the snow off the courts to play during the winter months.
76. Kenneth Magarian said Jane DeBarbieri and Scott LaBombard are the pickle ball liaisons and asked if they had any questions regarding the pickle ball permits.
77. Jane DeBarbieri said she does not want to have to paddle up and wait in line to play on the courts. She said there should be open play in the morning hours and expressed her concern over the "open play" time and said what if she just wanted to play with a couple of friends there are no open courts for those of us or from the community that just want to play on their own and not be part of the pickle ball group. She said she does not think the pickle ball group should take up all the courts and times and possibly leave one court open for anyone that just wants to play from the community like herself with a few friends.
78. Scott LaBombard said a good example of open play or to clarify is you need to put your paddles up to be next to play.
79. David Flaherty said the pickle ball group talked about this open play time and we decided we would all stay together as a group or you would have to wait your turn like everyone else.
80. Jane DeBarbieri responded 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is a very long time to wait and feels this is a little bit of an issue regarding open play and the courts were built for the community not just the pickle ball group.

81. David Flaherty said on the league play time people think they can come on the courts and we have about 150 players in two sessions alone.
82. Jane DeBarbieri said to David Flaherty that pickle ball is an awesome sport and it is a contribution to everyone in Westfield.
83. Kenneth Magarian asked if the times or schedule are posted like the committee talked about so people can see it. David Flaherty responded they do have schedule posted.
84. Jane DeBarbieri asked if anyone heard of any complaints from the neighbors with the night play.
85. Scott LaBombard responded that to his surprise he has not heard of any complaints.
86. Kenneth Magarian asked for a roll call vote and if anyone had any questions regarding pickle ball permits at Municipal and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Michael Tirrell to accept the renewal permits as presented motion seconded by Douglas Morash, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes
Motion passed.
87. David Flaherty said he may be back again for approval if they have pickle ball tournaments this year and brought up that a potential donation may be made to cover the cost of upgrading the tennis courts that are in pretty rough shape. He informed commissioners that someone informed him they would donate a decent amount of money to rehabilitate the other tennis courts. He explained we would have two set of dual lining on them both sides one for tennis and the other for pickle ball Right now they put tape on them and someone suggested to raise money to do the back tennis courts over.
88. Jane DeBarbieri said St. Mary's High School has tennis lessons at the Municipal Playground and the Parks and Recreation Dept. also have tennis and pickle ball programs and that Kenneth Magarian and herself had an agreement that if the tennis courts were to be refurnished and the two lines were really distinguished apart in color so they could be used for both tennis and pickle ball as pickle ball is going to surpass tennis as a sport. The pickle ball group or community are going to want additional pickle ball courts and the back tennis courts are really bad and cracked. She stated as long as the lines are painted really well she has no problem with the request to do the back tennis courts over.
89. Kenneth Magarian reminded the commission of the tape that was put down by the pickle ball group and ruined them and Nancy Stolpinski, pickle ball representative was made aware of the problem and the tape did not come up well and messed up the tennis courts for the St. Mary's tennis program.
90. Robert Veronesi said the pickle ball group were informed not to place any tape down on the courts at all due to the damage of the courts and the tennis players were sliding and falling down from the tape put down and the tape/lines were confusing to tennis players and hope they are following the rules.
91. Jane DeBarbieri said those double lines are terrible to play on for example the indoor basketball courts can get confusing for players. The double lines are horrible for a tennis player and she feels that it would be confusing for both tennis and pickle ball players and should be kept for tennis play only.

92. Michael Tirrell said he can check with the St. Mary's tennis coach and visit the site. He says personally he has not played tennis much himself and he used to all the time. St. Mary's School uses them every year. He said they may not have used them last year due to COVID-19 but will request to use them.
93. Jim Blascak said we use the back tennis courts for our tennis programs.
94. Michael Tirrell said he will contact Scott Hathaway for his input and get some quotes only if the commission votes or decide to re-do the tennis courts with dual lines and with a possible donation. He thanked David Flaherty for his presentation.
95. Kenneth Magarian brought up commission shall annually in the month of February, organize by electing a Chairman, a Secretary and a Pro-Tempore per section 11-15 of the organization and asked if anyone one was interested in a position.
96. Douglas Morash said he would be happy to continue serving in his current position as the Secretary.
97. Michael Tirrell said he is interested in serving as his current position as Chairman
98. Kenneth Magarian said he would also like to stay in current title as Pro-Tempore unless someone else wanted to do it.

Kenneth Magarian asked for a roll call vote on positions as presented and if anyone wanted to set motion. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Robert Veronesi to accept renewal titles Michael Tirrell as Chairman, Kenneth Magarian as Pro-Tempore and Douglas Morash as Secretary from February to January 2022 motion seconded by Jane DeBarbieri, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes
Motion passed.

Schedule of bills-Designated board members Vincent Olinski and Robert Veronesi (Emailed)

Staff Reports: No email reports

1. Jim Blascak, Program Coordinator said nothing is going on this winter except the spring/summer brochure will go to Graphic Image. And we are receiving spring/summer online registrations with t-ball up to 25 sign ups. He says he will be happy when the snow melts.

Kenneth Magarian asked for a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting, motion made by Michael Tirrell motion seconded by Jane DeBarbieri, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Jane DeBarbieri yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Robert Veronesi yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Kenneth Magarian yes and Scott LaBombard yes
Motion passed.

The next commission meeting is March 8, 2021

Documents used:

Schedule of bills-Emailed

Cheryl Crowe-Email regarding Hampton Ponds Playground and Curfew and lights ordinance

Permits -Use of Areas

Reviewed and approved by Douglas Morash, Secretary of Commission

Typed organized by zoom video: Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk