

Killingworth Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 13, 2024  
Emergency Operations Center, killingworth, CT

**1. Call to Order:** Jim called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Present: Jim Duffield (Chair), Jeremy Burr, Donna Clark, Bill Burley, Glenn Johnson, Chris Smalley, Chris Swiss (7:56 arrival)

**2. Visitors:** Lauren Perley (HKLL), Nancy Long, Linda MarKesich, Mike Morris, Bill McMahon, Jacque Wilcox, Debbie Sodergren, Shawn Sodergren, Peter Staniforth

**3. Public Comment:**

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** \*Bill made a motion to approve the April 15, 2024 Special Meeting minutes and Jeremy seconded the motion. The motion passed with Glenn abstaining.

**5. Communications, Bills and Applications:**

Applications:

1. Horseshoe Pit at Sheldon, 5/9-9/13, 5:30pm-9pm
2. HK High School, Eric Auer field usage, table

**\*Chris made a motion to approve the Horseshoe application, Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously**

Bills:

Eversource, Sheldon, \$65.10

Auer, \$49.47

Drainscapes, \$3,177.32, #6 of 8, Irrigation and two heads

Sweitzer, May, Sheldon, \$177.02

Rocco, \$119.90

Auer, \$177.02

Bethke, \$67.20

Pete Cumpstone, gatekeeping April Auer, \$300.00

Anthony Carri, gatekeeping April Sheldon, \$300.00

Clean Restrooms Rental, Inc., credit for missing restroom at Sheldon: +\$125.00 Feb, +\$125.00 March, +\$134.00 April

Rocco, \$170.00

**\*Glenn made a motion to approve the bills, Chris seconded the motion, there was a brief discussion about Drainscapes, and it passed unanimously.**

**6. Treasurer's Report:** 74.6% budget spent

**7. Old Business**

1. Sweitzer, will need to review trash contract
2. Pavillion: pre-bid meeting 5/14/2024, on site, bid opening 5/29/2024
3. Sheldon Playground, town employees to help replace equipment, volunteer clean up.
4. Rocco: HKLL volunteers have made improvements including power washing, dugout painting, removing garbage and debris, and repairing flagpole.
5. Pickleball Courts: Glenn posted an overview of the current plans for four asphalt courts at Sheldon next to the basketball court. There was an extensive group discussion between the commission members and visitors regarding potential court locations, Sheldon or Rocco, materials, and costs. Some visitors expressed a desire for reinforced concrete as opposed to asphalt for the court surface, citing less future maintenance. There was a discussion regarding the number of courts with the commission reiterating its plan to construct no less than four courts. There was some discussion regarding fencing and wind screens. The upcoming town budget currently has allocated \$130,000 for courts pending approval vote. Potential courts at Rocco still awaiting Wetlands Commission approval. There was a discussion regarding the use of ARPA funds, and the need to appeal to the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance. Chris Swiss commented on the potential of lights for the field at Rocco and future pickleball courts at Rocco. Chris Smalley commented on the cost differential between concrete and asphalt as court surface. It is clear that more funds are needed to construct concrete courts. Discussion will continue after the town budget vote.
6. Bethke: HKLL has cleared the brush around the perimeter of the field and the outfield beyond the fence. Also, dead trees have been removed from the site.
7. Auer
  - flower bed upkeep
  - gate repair
  - contract and commencement of new field work has stalled as awardee has not been in contact with commission or town.
  - Kristen LaViola has been approved as the new gatekeeper for Auer Park
8. **New Business**
  - mowing contracts to be reviewed
  - Chris Smalley volunteers as new representative for HK Parks and Recreation Authority
  - Commission continued the discussion regarding the pickleball courts location and materials.
  - discussed AED training for user groups which have been contacted, waiting for replies.

**\*Chris made a motion to approve \$500.00 for two new tennis nets at Sheldon Park, Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**\*Bill made a motion to adjourn at 8:59pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Clark