Parks and Recreation Commission 230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037

Thursday, November 10, 2022 6:00 p.m. MEETING Board of Education Conference Room 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT 06037

Join Zoom meeting

https://berlinct-

gov.zoom.us/j/89164712540?pwd=SkFBL3AvcXZjU0cwMUdGSGZUZm5NQT09

Meeting ID: 891 6471 2540 Meeting Passcode: 367288

By Phone (tolls may apply): +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Audience of Citizens
- 2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 13, 2022
 - b. October 25, 2022
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Request approval of donation of a 6 foot Sterling Bench from Barco Products valued at \$1,100.00, as well as a 3" X 10" plaque valued at \$250 to be placed outside the off leash area at Pistol Creek in honor of Rob and Linda Kielbowicz.
- 4. Pool Discussion
 - a. Determine timing and general thoughts of appraising Town Council of ideas
- 5. Parks and Recreation
 - a. Monthly Report
- 6. Parks & Grounds
 - a. Monthly Report
 - b. Discussion on Fields, Playgrounds Tours
 - c. State of CT Grant Update
- 7. Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Commission 230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037

Thursday, October 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.
MEETING
Board of Education Conference Room
238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT 06037

Join Zoom meeting

https://berlinct-gov.zoom.us/j/85869551646?pwd=TWlrUzdHTWF6U3JEWmJ2b1Q3KzFmdz09

Meeting ID: 858 6955 1646 Meeting Passcode: 648290

By Phone (tolls may apply): +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Audience of Citizens
- 2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 8, 2022
- 3. Consent Agenda
- 4. Fee Schedule Discussion
- 5. Pool Discussion
- 6. Parks and Recreation
 - a. Monthly Report
- 7. Parks & Grounds
 - a. Monthly Report
 - b. Discussion on Fields, Playgrounds Tours
 - c. State of CT Grant Update
- 8. Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Commission 230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037

Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:00 p.m. Board of Education Conference Room 238 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT 06037

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present: Chairwoman- Donna Bovee, Greg Starr, Andrew Legnani, Tony

Butrimas

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Joe Pulcini at 6:05 PM

Commissioners Absent: Don Delaquilla

Staff Present:

Jen Ochoa, Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Debbie Dennis, Superintendent of Recreation Steve Wood, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds

Chairwoman Bovee called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

1. Audience of Citizens

No audience of citizens

2. Approval of Minutes

September 8, 2022

Commissioner Starr moved to approve the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes Seconded by Commissioner Butrimas

Those voting in favor: 0

Those voting against: Chairwoman Donna Bovee, Commissioner Greg Starr, Commissioner Andrew Legnani, Commissioner Tony Butrimas Vote being: 0-4 (MOTION NOT PASSED)

Commissioner Starr moved to approve the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes with Revisions to 4a and 5b

Seconded by Commissioner Legnani

Those voting in favor: Chairwoman Donna Bovee, Commissioner Greg Starr, Commissioner Andrew Legnani, Commissioner Tony Butrimas Vote being: 4-0 (MOTION PASSED)

Revisions accepted

4a. Clarified "Revenue was pretty close to net income" and that specific's were not found by Superintendent Dennis

5b. Change name to Berlin High School Principal Ms. Eileen Eustis and add name of Berlin High School Athletic Director, David Francalangia

3. Consent Agenda No Consent Agenda

4. Fee Schedule Discussion

Chairwoman Bovee started the discussion with a question about the Senior passes for the pools. Superintendent Dennis explained that some seniors have fixed income. She noted the Child Daily rate now includes Seniors to make it easier for those financially. The Senior pass is new this year. The example line was 294, the fee has not changed just the wording has to include Seniors. Chairwoman Bovee asked about caregiver passes and why they are not included on the fee schedule. Superintendent Dennis said after discussion they felt there should be a fee included with caregiver passes, which are already established. She explained the pool's non-resident policy. The family would have to add the individual as a caregiver to their child so the pool will have a record of the person. The caregiver would then show their pass and pay the daily rate. Superintendent Dennis acknowledged we would have to change the policy eventually. There will be information advertised about the additional pool passes. The pandemic fees were removed from the fee schedule. Line 322 is showing an increase for turf fields due to grant wording when Biscoglio is finished they cannot charge a non-resident more than double what a resident is charged. In order to make it easier, they increased Scalise pricing as well so they both will be \$35 when Biscoglio is finished. Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa stated it is common for grants and other towns have similar pricing. Line 337-339 Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood explained the pricing change is due to the other towns pricing being 50 to 100. Chairwoman Bovee asked if the Biscoglio rates are changing now, and the Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services clarified that they don't change until after the renovations have been completed. Spring Season will be reflective of these new costs at Scalise. Line 261 there has been a \$5 wage increase in the winter basketball and summer program because minimum wage has been increasing. Superintendent Dennis stated the adult programs can run this year if we have a minimum of 8 people register in each program that would cover the expenses to run them. Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood then discussed the cost of lights at the fields, he mentioned the fees charged will never cover the cost of the lights so they want to keep it reasonable. He stated he will have an accurate figure within the next couple of months and the September and October bill will be reflective of the cost to run the lights for 8 hours a month at Zipadelli. Chairwoman Bovee requested an update on this for the December meeting. It was asked if the new scoreboard would affect the lighting bill and Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood said he doesn't believe so because it is coming off the same transformer as the lights.

Commissioner Butrimas moved to approve the Fee Schedule with all changes recommended by Staff and to be sent to Town Council for approval Seconded by Commissioner Starr

Those voting in favor: Chairwoman Donna Bovee, Commissioner Greg Starr, Commissioner Andrew Legnani, Commissioner Tony Butrimas, Commissioner Joe Pulcini

Vote being: 5-0 (MOTION PASSED)

5. Pool Discussion

Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa stated that they had worked on the memo to get the commissioners all of the facts about the pool's and that a recommendation needs to be made to the Town Council due to the pool liner being included in the Capital Planning Budget. Commissioner Butrimas noted the history of the pool and will pass that information along. Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood identified that the pool needed severe work in 2011 and they asked to begin renovation of the pool. And by the time they finished assessing the needs of the pool there was an excess of around 75k in cost to replaster the pool. The life expectancy of this plaster repair is 7 years, which would put it at 2018. A company then came in to put more work into the pool which included caulking to prevent water leakage. Due to natural shrinkage, the caulking fix only lasted a short period of time. The pool loses about 5 inches per day in the pool on average. The cost to start replacing some of the areas was a large financial figure. In 2020, they were quoted 110-120k and now the price has increased just to install a pool liner into the pool. There is no accurate figure of cost until the company begins the work. The guarantee on the liner is about 10-15 years. Commissioner Starr asked about the poolhouse being included in the 10-year Capital Plan and whether pool upgrades were included in this. Chairwoman Bovee noted the 1-page summary of costs and expenses and that these items were included before but the costs are different now. It was noted the buildings are not ADA accessible either. Superintendent Dennis stated the pool house has always been included in the Capital Budget and the pool houses are not a priority so they keep being pushed out for years and the liner has been included as well for three years now. Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa raises the question that due to present day expenses and concerns, does it make sense and is the pool operational. Commissioner Butrimas said that the pool is part of a community and if the lack of attendance is due to lack of interest or condition of the facility? Chairwoman Bovee wondered if the Percival Pool could accommodate the number of people if they did choose to close it and it can. Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa also noted that a suggestion was made that maybe Percival Pool can be developed with a difference of money. The Commission decided they needed to visit the pool to get a visual and see the condition. Superintendent Dennis also explained that there is still the aspect of lack of staffing for the pools due to limited supervisors. The Town is comfortable having conversation about repurposing the space if they choose to close the pool. Chairwoman Bovee requests more options for the area, pros and cons, where the money could go instead, etc. Also wanted to note that if they close the pool what happens to the memorial name.

6. Parks and Recreation

a. Monthly Report, Superintendent Dennis stated we are having a "regular" Trunk or Treat this year, Saturday October 22nd and 40 people have signed up so far with the expectation of more in the final week of registration. 16 trunks are signed up so far as well, a few local businesses are doing it and New Britain Transportation has a mini-bus to bring. Superintendent Dennis reports that the scarecrows are going up tomorrow. And their new staff is great.

7. Parks & Grounds

- a. Monthly Report, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood answered Commissioners Butrimas' question about the new signs and they were all created through the Board of Education and that they look great. Included is the picture of Zipadelli that word needs to be spread about keeping care of the field and that it looks bad and considered vandalism. They did meet with the Police Department and discussed cameras. They suggested sitting down with the IT Director, Brian Freeman to see if it falls under their software program which they will be meeting with him to see how hard it is to tie in fiber optics with the scoreboard going in. They would need to figure out who monitors the cameras because they have various systems in place. Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa stated a system can be put into place and they can potentially align it with town software.
- b. Discussion on Fields, Playgrounds Tours, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds Steve Wood mentioned the playground updates are included in the Capital Budget plan and he did add a splash pad into the budget for the playground updates. The splash pad would be under Parks and Grounds and not monitored. Chairwoman Bovee asked about other towns splashpads and what department they fall into. Superintendent Dennis stated Berlin is different because the departments are separate. Chairwoman Bovee asked for a copy of the 10-year Capital Plan for the next meeting.
- c. State of CT Grant Update, Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa reported that the Biscoglio update is the same, they are meeting with Berlin High School principal Ms. Eileen Eustis and the Atheletic Director Mr. David Francalangia to discuss conceptual plans. Commissioner's asked for an update for the November meeting on the timeline. Commissioner Butrimas asked for updates regarding the Kitchen and Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services Jen Ochoa believes it is included in the Capital Plan to improve it. Commissioner Starr wanted to note that Parks and Grounds have kept up the plants beautifully around town.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Butrimas moved to adjourn at 7:49 P.M.

Seconded by Commissioner Legnani

Those voting in favor: Chairwoman Bovee, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Legnani, Commissioner Pulcini, Commissioner Butrimas

Vote being: 5-0 (MOTION PASSED)

Submitted by,

Tiffany Trowbridge-Bernard

Memo

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Jennifer Ochoa, Director of Community, Recreation & Parks Services

Debbie Dennis, Superintendent of Recreation

Steven Wood, Superintendent of Parks and Grounds

Date: October 13, 2022

Re: Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool

This memo serves as a collection of facts, figures and possibilities regarding the continual operation of Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool. Once reviewed, the Parks and Recreation Commission shall take a vote of their recommendation on whether this pool should continue to operate and then present that recommendation to the Town Council.

We felt it was best to give you all information regarding all aspects pertaining to the operation of the pool so you have an overall view of what is needed/expected.

CONSTRUCTION

Pool Liner

The pool is in need of a pool liner. This is estimated to cost around \$280,000, however once this process begins there may be other improvements found that need to be made in order for it to remain operational.

Wading Pool

This pool will require thousands of dollars to fix and become operational again. Patrons have requested this pool be operational again.

Building

There is currently \$750,000 listed on the 10 year Capital Improvement Plan in FY27 for renovation of the pool building.

STATISTICS

The overall attendance at the pool has declined over the years. These numbers reflect the attendance at Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool only.

YEAR	ATTENDANCE
2017	3,059
2018	2,497
2019	2,307
2020	COVID –only Percival was open
2021	1,043
2022	931 (only open M-F)

IRREGULAR EXPENSES

The Parks and Grounds Department had to spend approximately an additional \$10,000 in water this year due to the pool losing about 5 inches of water each day. Over the last few years, the Department has tried to recaulk and patch some of the areas where the water is leaking out under the gutters with no luck. This is why there is a need for a pool liner.

STAFFING

As stated at a previous meeting, supervisory staff could be a concern if both pools are operational. Summer of 2022 operated with 5 supervisors. When asked if they were returning, 2 indicated they would not, 2 said they weren't sure if they were returning because they were looking into internships or other commitments, and one said he would return. However, the one returning is looking to get the training done required to be able to apply for the Aquatics Director position. Currently, there are 2 potential lifeguards who could be Head Guards, who would be in charge periodically, but would not be qualified to be Assistant Directors and be in charge on a more regular basis. Those 2 are currently seniors in high school. Depending on who actually returns, this could create issues even opening one pool next summer.

Our intent is not to decrease services to the community but to give a realistic scenario of what needs to be done, the potential impact to the budget and possible concerns with staffing. Stated above are the concerns and facts to consider when making a recommendation on the continued operation of Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool.

FIELD FEES COMPARISION

	GRASS FIELD	GRASS FIELD
TOWN	LOCAL	NON-LOCAL
Cromwell	\$25/hour	\$50/hour
Local Fee is determined if 67% residents	d if 67% residents	
Newington	\$85/game or practice	\$170/game or practice
Local Fee is determined if 90% residents	d if 90% residents	
Rocky Hill	\$25/hour	\$100/hour
Local Fee is determined if 67% residents	d if 67% residents	
New Britain	\$25/hour	\$50/hour
Local Fee is determined if 75% residents	d if 75% residents	
	•	
Wethersfield	\$25/use	\$150/use
Local fee is determined by 67% residents	d by 67% residents	
BERLIN (CURRENT)	\$20/hour	\$50/hour
Local Fee is determined if 75% residents	d if 75% residents	
RECOMMENDED FEES \$20/hour	\$20/hour	\$75/hour
		/

TURF FIELD	TURF FIELD	LIGHTS
LOCAL	NON-LOCAL	
NO TURF FIELD	NO TURF FIELD	
\$350/game or practice	\$700/game or practice	
		\$30/hour
\$50/hour	\$100/hour	
\$75/hour	\$150/hour	
\$100/hour	\$200/hour	
,, ,,,,	70-7	\$50/hour local
\$20/hour	\$/0/hour	\$65/hour non-local
		1000 mg/022
\$20/hour	\$70/hour	\$50/hour non-local
750/11001	5.0/1.00.	



Town of Berlin Parks and Recreation Department

230 Kensington Road · Berlin, CT 06037 **Office** (860) 828-7056 · **Fax** (860) 828-1627 **E-mail** ddennis@berlinct.gov

Debra S. Dennis, CPRP Superintendent of Recreation

Parks and Recreation monthly report for October

- 1. Fall programs are ongoing; we added a couple dance classes, an in-person yoga class, for adults, the scarecrow workshop and painting classes.
- 2. Winter basketball registration started September 26. Registration is good with 97 registered as of Monday, October 10.
- 3. I have contacted basketball staff from last year, to see who is not returning to determine number of new staff to hire. I am anticipating a few staff will need to be hired. I will post on the Town website, Facebook page and announcements will be made at BHS. Bob Veronesi will not return as the boys 3&4 coordinator, so I have begun advertising for that position. Kaitlin Starr with be the boys 5-8 coordinator and Catherine Ortiz-Negron will be the girls coordinator. I am also advertising for an instructor for our 2nd grade instructional basketball program. That program hasn't been held the past few years because of COVID.
- 4. The Scarecrow Contest this year will have the scarecrows on display as you drive into the Arthur B. Powers Municipal complex, starting October 14. People can vote for the Berlin's Best Scarecrow, starting October 18 through October 28. Voting slips will be available at Town Hall, Berlin Peck Memorial Library, the Berlin Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department/Community Center. Winner will be announced on October 31.
 - We are doing a traditional Trunk or Treat event at Sage Park on Saturday, October 22, from 6-7:30 p.m. People must register ahead of time and we will have people handing out candy at their "trunk". We currently have 16 people decorating trunks.
- 5. Started to work on the Tinsel Fun Run and registration has started. Race will be held at Berlin High School on Saturday, December 3.

Debbie



Town of Berlin

Parks and Grounds 15 Town Farm Lane - Berlin CT Office 860-828-7025

Fax 860-828-7124

E-mail swood@berlinct.gov

Steven T. Wood Superintendent Parks and Grounds

Parks and Grounds September report

News:

- o Finished aerating and overseeded playing fields
- Fertilized fields
- o Replaced two grills at Timberlin Pavilion
- o Cleaned up monuments for Labor Day
- o Update on cameras on fields

Daily

- o Ballfield maintenance
- o Mowing
- o Watering and deadheading of flowers

Weekly

- o Painting athletic fields
- o Garbage

Miscellaneous

- o Replanted memorial trees
- o Cleaned up and removed stums Ledge Cemetery
- o Constructed an organic material bin Community Garden
- o Broke down both pools for the season
- Cleaned overgrown brush around the complex
- o Drilled holes for new signs at McGee, Willard and Hubbard
- o Service equipment

Parks and Recreation Commission 230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037

Tuesday, October 25, 2022 9:00 a.m. SPECIAL MEETING Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool 36 Wilcox Court, East Berlin, CT 06023

Meeting Agenda

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present: Donna Bovee, Tony Butrimas, Andrew Legnani, Greg Starr

Absent: Don Dellaquila, Joe Pulcini

Staff Present:

Jennifer Ochoa, Director of Community, Recreation and Parks Services Debbie Dennis, Superintendent of Recreation Steven Wood, Superintendent of Parks and Grounds

Chairperson Bovee called the meeting to order at 9:04AM.

- 1. Discuss Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial Pool Operations
 - a. The group toured the area of the pool and discussed the needed repairs such as installing a pool liner, fixing the steps and deck areas. Superintendent Wood explained the gutter system thoroughly. Accessibility issues were also discussed.
 - b. The wading pool was looked at and the repairs needed were mentioned.
 - c. The group toured the pump house, the guard shack and the bathrooms. Renovation ideas were discussed, including ADA accessibility.
 - d. Conversation took place to discuss other ideas of how to utilize the land if the pool does close.

2. Adjournment

a. Commissioner Starr motioned to adjourn at 10:02AM. Commissioner Butrimas seconded the motion.

Those voting in favor were: Chairperson Bovee, Commission Starr, Commissioner Legnani, Commissioner Butrimas. Vote being 4-0. (MOTION CARRIED)

multiple dogs. Also knowing when they lived on Beckley Road, nearly every day, Linda would take them to the Rocky Hill Dog Park, (as there wasn't a dog park in Berlin.) now that Berlin has established on Off Teach Dog Park at Pistol Creeks the neighbors thought is fitting to collect donations in their name to purchase a bench to be placed near the Off Leash area, so the owners of dogs who use the area, can pix and watch their dogs romp freely. To date we have collected \$1620 - in donations to do thes. Those funds are in a Savings

Account at Webster Bank, with the name of that account being in Virginia S. Chant's name. She was the one all donations were sent to.

Recently, Virginia Chand, Mike
Serrono (Linda's Nephew, and Boatta
Kielbowiez med with Slove Wood
and Jen Ochoa to discuss which
type of bench to purchase and the
price of pierchoseing the bench,
with the Town of Berlin placeing
the Bench Decurely in cameral and
the Off Leash Dog Park and
Pestol Creek.

The two representatives from families decided on the 6" Sterling

Beach from Barco Products. Steve Wood obtained a price Quote from Barco for both the le food + 8 food beach. a pecture of the Beach arel the quotes are Denclosed. Unless we get a sizable donation of \$300. plus, we are looking at ordering the La foot bench. We are confident that we can still raise the fund of appopinately #150 - to purchase and pay for installing the bench plus the bronze plate that would read "In Loving Menong of Kob and Linda Kielbowicz. We are asking for the











Town of Berlin Parks and Recreation Department

230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037 **Office** (860) 828-7056 • **Fax** (860) 828-1627 **E-mail** ddennis@berlinct.gov

Parks and Recreation monthly report for November

- 1. Winter basketball evaluations and the draft will be Saturday, November 12. Numbers are ok for boys 3&4 and low for the other boys grades, estimated number of teams for each group Boys 3&4 6 teams, Boys 5&6 4 teams, Boys 7&8 4 teams, Girls 3&4 4 teams, Girls 5&6 2 teams and Girls 7-9 0 teams. There are 153 currently registered and we will continue to register for divisions that have openings. Most staff will be returning but I am still looking for a boys 3&4 grade coordinator and referees for that site. We have advertised for positions and interviews will be held in November.
- 2. The Scarecrow contest was held, with scarecrows on display as you drive into the Arthur B Powers Municipal complex. We had 10 scarecrows entered. Voting took place at Town Hall, the Berlin Peck Memorial Library, the Community Center and the Senior Center. Berlin's Best Scarecrow will be announced on Halloween. We had a lot of positive feedback having the scarecrows in one area and hope to get more entries next year.
 - Our traditional Trunk or Treat event was held on Saturday, October 22 at Sage Park. We had 82 kids registered and 15 trunks decorated. It was a great night and people were very happy and appreciative.
- 3. Working on the Tinsel Fun Run. Race will be held at Berlin High School on Saturday, December 3. So far we have 14 signed up.
- 4. Hoping to have registration starting early December for some of our winter programs. Information will be available on the Town website, Facebook page and Board of Education website.
- 5. We will have Visit w/Santa again this year at the Berlin Community Center on November 28 and 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. We will set up the room the same way as we set it up last year where kids can stand and talk to Santa then sit in front of Santa, all at a safe distance, for pictures. Each will get a treat, lollipop and gift. Berlin youth in preschool through 2nd grade are welcome to meet with Santa. We will also collect donations for the Food Pantry.

We will also hold our Holiday House decorating contest again.



Town of Berlin

Parks and Grounds 15 Town Farm Lane - Berlin CT Office 860-828-7025 Fax 860-828-7124 E-mail swood@berlinct.gov

Steven T. Wood Superintendent Parks and Grounds

Parks and Grounds September report

News:

- o Built a Gaga Pit Willard School
- Moved food for Social Services
- o Installed 100' feet of new guardrail Sage Park
- Started putting up Christmas lights
- Cleanup back parking lot Sage Park added path Sage 1

Daily

0

- o Leaf cleanup
- o Ballfield maintenance
- Mowing

Weekly

- o Painting athletic fields
- o Garbage

Miscellaneous

- o Installed light bases and ran conduit at Veterans Park
- Replaced climber at Little Peoples Playground
- Replaced harnesses on ADA swings
- o Installed sander on UTV
- o Service equipment
- o Pull all dead flowers
- Pushed back wood line 75' at Ledge Cemetery