

**Town of Chester**  
203 Middlesex Avenue  
Chester Connecticut 06412-1200



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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission

These minutes are subject to Commission approval.

Monday April 30, 2018  
7:00pm  
Chester Town Hall, Downstairs Lobby

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Mike Abramson called the meeting to order at time 7:05 PM.

### **Members present:**

Dawn Saunders, Michael Abramson, John Williams, Ivey Gianetti, John Saunders, Kurt Ziemann

### **Also in attendance:**

Kenna Campbell, Elizabeth Netsch

### **Members Absent**

Deron Grabel

### **Minutes of the Meeting on January 8, 2018**

John Williams moved to accept the minutes. Ivey Gianetti seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Audience of Citizens**

Randolph Netsch

### **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman included his report within the Director's report.

### **Director's Report:**

The Director started the discussion with the schedule for Spring and Summer. The director brought up the March program attendance. Despite the weather, we were very successful with the activities. Lacrosse was cancelled due to the weather, but the magic workshop was held as well as the Bounce U had a fantastic turnout.

Summer camp slots have been quickly filled. There are a few weeks that have spots open still at this moment due to some cancellations.

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The CIT class has 15 children signed up at this moment. 7 of them are new and 8 are returning. Those that are returning will not have to attend all days, but they are aware of which ones they need they need to attend.

A few lifeguards are recertifying for this summer and the director will be hosting the CPR/AED for the professional rescuer. This will be open to the public for anyone who would like to join.

A new session of Karate is going to start in a week from today and there are 15 signed up at this moment. The instructor would like to do another 6 sessions next year and would like to do one more session in the summer.

Elizabeth Netsch asked the yoga instructor if she would like to continue to host yoga throughout the Summer, but the instructor has not gotten back to her at this moment. The Commission discussed the possibility of sponsoring a different yoga teacher. A woman approached the director asking to start a new yoga program, but it was not clear if this woman wanted to be sponsored by Park and Rec and work through them or if she wanted to do it on her own.

The Commission discussed the required Insurance Policies needed for these instructors and any event that is located on town property such as Cedar Lake or the Meeting House. This was brought up regarding if the instructors had the proper insurance coverage.

Michael Abramson brought up the fact that there is a student who would like to be a CIT but is not able to attend most of the classes. The Commission discussed it, considering the fact she has not attended any of our camp and has no prior CIT training. The Commission concluded that if someone wants to be a CIT, they must attend a majority of the classes, excluding the First Aid and CPR certification assuming they can take them elsewhere. For those that are returning, they have the choice to take 2 out of the 3 classes that are offered to refresh their memory from last year.

The director concluded talking about the Spring and Summer programs and switched the topic to North Quarter Park. Elizabeth brought up that a meeting has not been set yet with the contractors at this moment. The Board of Selectman approved the basketball court, a new swing set, tidying up the older children area, disc golf, and fixing up the "preschool" area. This will be moved on to be approved by the Board of Finance. The First Selectwoman informed the director that she would like to see most of what was discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting finished in this upcoming fiscal year. The Commission will discover next week whether or not this was approved at the



budget discussion. Elizabeth Netsch also brought up that she would like to remove the clay that sits in the ball field area at the park, so grass can be grown there.

The First Selectwoman reported to the director that Chester Elementary School is planning on putting in a new playground.

Michael Abramson discussed the idea of updating the wooden fence at North Quarter Park. John Williams agreed stating that the entrance to the park needed some sprucing up to look more welcoming. John Saunders mentioned that we could add some flowers or replace the fence. This was tabled until the Commission finds out if the funding is approved.

Dawn Saunders wanted to discuss the safety of North Quarter Park after the storm. The director stated that the nature trail is in a disarray and needs to be cleaned up and taken care of. Dawn discussed that she is concerned with the trees and their monitoring. The director said she will bring this up to the Selectwoman.

Ivey Gianetti asked if we could have a special meeting before September to discuss how we should move forward if the funding is approved. The Commission agreed but did not make a vote out of it.

Mike Abramson asked the director if the work that was being done to Cedar Lake was completed. The director confirmed and said that the weeds and leaves were taken out of the swim area at Pelletier Park and the Town beach across from Pelletier.

The director informed the Commission that there will be another "Sand Day" to help spread the sand around Pelletier Park. The lifeguards, camp counselors, and CITs will help as well to make it go by quicker. The date will be determined later.

John Saunders wanted to talk about the Summer concerts that are hosted at Cedar Lake. He was inquiring if Park and Rec was involved in any way. The director said that we are not involved due to the issue of people drinking alcohol and swimming. She did not want to expose the lifeguards to that danger. John asked about hosting movie night or some other event to draw in revenue. Elizabeth said she would look into it but was not sure if it would be possible.

The topic of hosting an event for the opening of North Quarter Park. Dawn Saunders suggested having a ribbon cutting ceremony and having food trucks or something along those lines to turn it into a "Family Day" styled event. The Commission will take this into consideration and talk about it more later on.

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**Next Month:**

The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2018.

**Adjournment**

John Williams moved to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Saunders seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kenna M. Campbell  
Secretary