MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: October 1, 2026

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Town Hall – Parks and Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call Meeting to Order:
Chairman Bill Donston called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Margaret Germain, Tadd Johnson, Sabra Sarandrea, Pat Rinaldi, Vice Chair, Bill Donston, Chair

Absent: Alan Mickel
Joe McGrail
Herm Desena, Town Council Liaison

III. Public Participation:

Barbara Zulkeski spoke about Adams Road Park and asked about applying for grants.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

September 3, 2026, Regular Meeting

Motion: Pat Rinaldi, seconded by Tadd Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2026

Motion passed 3-0. Sabra and Peg abstained.

V. Correspondence - None

VI. Reports:

A. Chairman –
   a. Welcomed new member Sabra Sarandrea
   b. Was disappointed that the Fall Festival had to be cancelled due to the severe weather
   c. The Police Department will be hosting their annual benefit golf tournament on October 2, 2026

B. Director – the Directors report will be covered under New Businesses

C. Sub-Committees – Golf. Covered under New Business

VII. Old Business:

A. Policies and Procedures – No update

B. Maintenance List Update – Discussed

C. Account Balances (specials) for Parks and Recreation – No update

VIII. New Business:

A. Review and consideration of Submitted Applications and Tournaments for 2026 - No new applications

B. Discuss and take action on the 2027 Golf Rates. Marty Brynes, Golf Professional briefed the Golf Sub-Committee earlier this evening about Dynamic Pricing. He suggests that we use a hybrid model, to maintain a level of personal service for our season's passholders and use more of the technology for our other patrons. Marty recommends that the weekend rack rate be $74 (18 holes with a cart) $50 (18 holes w/out a cart). There will be minimum and maximums set up to ensure that the average price per round is not too low or high. The dynamic pricing will calculate pricing utilizing a plethora of real-time data thus assisting us to maintain a healthy balance of play vs. revenue. Season's passing prices will stay the same as in 2026.

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi to accept the recommendation of the Golf Sub-Committee that Parks and recreation Commission recommend to the Town Council the proposed rate schedule for the 2027 golf season: to utilize the hybrid dynamic pricing model, with a range of minus 10% and plus 25% off the 2027 rack rate and send them to the full Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Peg Germain. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Discuss and take action on the recommendation to utilize the John Staver Fund for tennis court rebuild.

Motion by Pat Rinaldi to accept the recommendation from the Assistant Finance director, Kayle VanWagner, to deposit the proceeds of the John Staver account into a Short-Term Investment Fund. Seconded by Margaret Germain. Motion passed unanimously.

The Director read a MEMO for the record regarding his recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission to utilize a portion of the John Staver Fund towards the rebuilding of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park with funding to come from other sources as deemed appropriate by the Town Manager and the Town Council.

A motion was made by Peg Germain seconded by Tadd Johnson to recommend that the Town Council authorize that $300,000 be utilized from the John Staver Fund towards the rebuild of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park with the balance of the required project cost be covered using other sources as determined by the Town Council, including a loan to be paid by future proceeds of the John Staver Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Discuss and take action on the renewal of the contract (attached to the minutes) between the Town and Golf Professional, Martin P. Byrnes, Jr.

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi to accept the recommendation of the Golf Sub-Committee to recommend to the Town Council Parks to renew the contract (attached to the minutes) between the Town and Golf Professional Martin P. Byrnes, Jr. Seconded by Margaret Germain. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the Town Council for a special appropriation of $23,800 from the General Fund balance to the Crestbrook Park Golf Course Enterprise Fund to decommission failing oil tanks and convert Sunset Grille to existing propane infrastructure.

A motion was made by Bill Donston to recommend that the Town Council appropriate $23,800 from the General Fund to Public Buildings to decommission failing oil tanks and convert Sunset Grille to existing propane infrastructure. Seconded by Peg Germain. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the Town Council for a consolidation of $30,000 across five departmental line items into Parks Maintenance Not Buildings, for the Where Angels Play Safety Matting upgrade at Veterans Memorial Park. A detailed MEMO is attached to the meeting packet.

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi, seconded by Peg Germain to approve the consolidation of $30,000 across five departmental line items into Parks Maintenance Not Buildings, for the Where Angels Play Safety Matting upgrade at Veterans Memorial Park. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment:

Motion: Tadd Johnson, seconded by Peg Germain, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved:

Susan King, Clerk