

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, January 2nd 2025
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson John Campobasso, Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn

Also Present: Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout; James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Susan Siegel, Councilwoman; James Torre, Senior Recreation Leader; Town Supervisor Ed Lachterman; Sergio Esposito, Councilman; Diana Quast, Town Clerk

Absent: Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Alternate Commissioner Antonio Galvao

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the December 5th Meeting Minutes: Approval postponed to next meeting.

Capital Parks Asset Review:

Superintendent Martorano distributes and reviews the Capital Parks Asset Review document with the Commission. The following are reviewed:

- Blackberry Woods Park: Short Term: Install picnic tables or benches by playground and tennis area. Long Term: Pickleball/Tennis courts resurfacing, replace playground unit, replace fencing around courts
- Catherine Street Field: Use will be discontinued after Toll Brothers project begins.
- Chelsea Field: no future plans. Commissioner Falcone mentions parking issue and to add additional parking units.
- Crystal Lake: the department no longer conducts ice checks. No future plans.
- Deer Hollow Park: Short Term: Install new decking. Long Term: Replace main playground unit.
- John Downing Park: Short Term: Tennis crack repair, sidewalks to be paved. Long Term: Tennis resurface with drainage, 202 ballfields drainage update, create accessibility walkway – on hold due to grant denial, but will be resubmitted.
- Fox Den: Short Term: slide hood needs replacement Long Term: repurpose park for passive recreation.
- Tom Diana Park at Granite Knolls Sports Complex: Short Term: Sensory garden addition off playground, monitor crack issues at basketball court, pave parking lot. Long Term: turf replacement.
Town Board Liaison Haughwout asks if an addition of a splash pad in the area adjacent to the basketball court could cause further damage. The Commission will keep that issue in mind.
- Hanover East: work completed in 2023, no further goals
- Harrison Apar Field of Dreams: basic improvements completed, no long term goals

- Hunterbrook Field: Baseball backstop removed. Short Term: expand parking. Long Term: improvement of soccer fields. Possibly turf and addition of lights.
- Ivy Knolls Park: unit was renovated in 2015. Long Term: walkway to be paved (Highway)
- Junior Lake Park and Aquatic Facility: chlorine tank currently being replaced. Short Term: Pool slide repair. Long Term: playground replacement, consider dredging a channel for lake improvement.
- Kensington Woods: Short Term: Fix fence and gate at basketball court. Long Term: basketball court resurfacing, playground slide replacement
- London Woods: Short Term: minor backstop repairs
- Patriot Skate Park: skate park units replaced in 2024, now being used by ebikes. Long Term: add ebike safe terrain
- The Veteran Memorials Circle: Garden Club beautification project in progress.
- Railroad Park: basketball replaced 2023, playground needs replacement. Long Term: addition of public bathroom.
- Shrub Oak Park and Brian J Slavin Aquatic Facility: Main pool coping/siding replacement in progress for 2026. Short Term: updates to ADA bridges and walkway
- Sparkle Lake: Short Term: restock of grass carp, replace doors in building, engineering assessment, install new floor in building, demo or auction old office trailer units.
- Sylvan Glen: Short Term: addition of features in paw park. Long Term: fence replacement and pruning of branches
- Turkey Mountain: repaired driveway September 16, 2021, no long term goals
- Walden Woods: Post and rail fence replaced. Long Term: Playground replacement
- Willow Park: Long Term: add gazebo for community garden, fix backstop
- Woodlands/Legacy Field: replaced turf 2024- has 12 year expiration
- Yorkhill Park: 2023 drainage completed Long Term: Playground replacement
- Yorktown Community & Cultural Center: repave track, put new tree using tree fund, update lighting
- Valley Fields Par 3 Golf Course: looking to connect to sewer, meeting with planning soon, extend contract
- Stonegate: Long Term: determine if viable park property
- 9/11 Memorial Garden and Gazebo: ordered new flags
- Cecere Park: Commissioner Thomas Dunn notes this would be a nice location for a town clock

Commissioner Cumiskey recommends to Superintendent Martorano to make updates to the document and include an addition of prioritization of improvements and projects, further suggestion that it is also presented to the Town Board and Planning Board.

Discussion on Field Stone Manor:

The Commission, Town Supervisor Ed Lachterman, Town Board Liaison Haughwout, Councilwoman Susan Siegel, Councilman Sergio Esposito and Town Clerk Diana Quast hold discussion regarding the project known as Field Stone Manor.

Chairperson Talbert informs the Commission that Councilwoman Susan Siegel sent an email regarding the approved plans for a park at Field Stone Manor including 3 tennis courts, a basketball court and gravel parking lot. The current area is being used as a ware yard housing

construction equipment. Councilman Cumiskey asked if this park area would be open to all Yorktown residents, or just an “amenity” for this community.

Town Clerk Diana Quast clarifies the property is not dedicated parkland and is municipal property. The current understanding is that the deed was inadvertently filed ahead of time when it shouldn't have been. It is in front of the Planning Department for further investigation.

Councilwoman Susan Siegel informs the Commission a compilation of inconsistent recreation based codes will be sent to the Town Board, with a copy sent to the Recreation Commission, Planning Board and Town Attorney.

2025 Camp and Pool Rates:

Chairperson Talbert postpones camp and pool rate vote to the February meeting.

Shrub Oak Park Baseball Field:

Jay Tomasulo proposes to the Commission the renaming of the Shrub Oak Park baseball field and replacement of the signage.

The Commission states it will send a memo to the Town Board and vote in the February meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Commissioner Cumiskey requests an update on winter registration.

Commissioner Cumiskey thanks Superintendent Martorano for a job well done during the holiday lights parade and would like to be a part of the pre-parade preparation meeting next year to share lessons learned.

Chair's Report:

Sensory Garden:

Chairperson Talbert states the motion from last month regarding sensory garden needs revision.

Commissioner Cumiskey states the motion was approving moving forward with the project, subject to money and maintenance.

Commissioner Thomas Dunn states Diana Quast came forward in front of the Commission and stated that this project would be of no cost to the Town and that the donor would be revealed once there's some approval.

Councilwoman Susan Siegel recommends separating the sensory garden project and splash pad project. The Recreation Commission should send the Town Board a memo with their concerns regarding the sensory garden.

Commissioner Cumiskey recommends the Commission revisit next meeting.

Superintendent Martorano is gathering accurate pricing estimates in order to bring the sensory garden committee to the Town Board.

Councilwoman Susan Siegel recommends the sensory garden committee meet in January with the goal to present to the Town Board at the first February meeting work session.

Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout asks when the grant expires. Commissioner Thomas Dunn states he was told there was an expiration date, but was not privy to the exact date.

Liaison Reports:

Superintendent Martorano introduces the club liaisons to James Torre, Senior Recreation Leader and the new field use coordinator.

Al French: YYSC

Al French asks Superintendent Martorano about field aeration and seeding program.

Superintendent Martorano states he will look into it with Parks Foreman Dominic Monopoli.

Al French asks for an update on the Toll Brothers project. Superintendent Martorano states it is going before the Planning Board for approval.

Al French states he will send sizes of nets needing replacement.

Mike McDonald: NY/NJ Trail Conference

Mike McDonald informs the Commission some plank replacement was completed on the Sylvan Glen trails.

Mike McDonald asks for an update on the Gupta land swap. Superintendent Martorano informs the decision is before the Town Board. Councilwoman Susan Seigel says that it was not approved.

Mike McDonald reminds Superintendent Martorano that a new culvert is needed at Sylvan Glen to mitigate the water.

Joe Falcone: Senior Advisory Board

Joe Falcone informs the Commission the next Senior Advisory Board meeting is Friday January 17th.

Chairperson Talbert informs Commission and those present that starting May 7th all persons must have an enhanced driver's license or passport in order to fly domestically. He states this would be good information to include in the next Senior Advisory Board meeting.

New Business:

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission he is planning to expand the parking lot at Hunterbrook Field. He asks Al French to take a look at the current taped off area. Chairperson Talbert states he would meet Al there.

Chairperson Talbert makes motion to close at 9:25pm.