

**Branford Board of Recreation  
Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Paul Criscuolo~ Chairman  
Deborah Conklin  
Jeanne Crowley  
Bill O'Brien  
Bimmie Herget

**Staff Present:**

Alex Palluzzi, Jr.  
Dale Izzo

**Guest Present:**

First Selectman, James B Cosgrove  
Members of the Joe Trapasso Family  
Jeffrey Hotz, Young's Pond Commission

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo

**II. Approval of meeting minutes/ Special Meeting minutes**

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from 1-9-19

1<sup>st</sup>: Deborah Conklin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bimmie Herget passed 4-0

- III. Correspondence:** A letter was read by the Trapasso Family regarding the naming of the current Branford Community House. There was discussion heard from the family about their request to have the existing Branford Community House be named after their dad, Joe Trapasso and honor him. They also stated that their father was very much about inclusion and want to make sure that the Veterans were still considered in this request. The board did not take action and tabled it until the next meeting. First Selectman, James Cosgrove agreed that the story about their dad needs to be told and how do we do that so that the residents and the younger generation know who he was and what he did for the town.

A motion was made to take the request into consideration to name the building after Joe Trapasso

1<sup>st</sup>: Deborah Conklin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill O'Brien passed 5-0

**IV. Public Comment:** None

**V. Directors Report:**

- **Foote Park:** We have begun doing spring clean up at the park.
- **Community House:** First Selectman James Cosgrove gave an over view of the project. They are sheetrocking and the windows should be going in soon. The project is moving along.
- **Other Facilities:** Alex spoke about the department taking on Young's Park and how their budget has been put into the Parks and Recreations

overall budget. Jeff Hotz, Young's Pond commissioner was introduced to the board. A discussion was heard about the improvements that we will be making at this facility, as well that Lacrosse will be having practices at this facility.

- **Budget/Personnel:** Alex presented the board with the department's budget that will be presented to the Board of Finance. Also Russell Burrows retired as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Dale and Alex conducted interviews and we will be hiring one employee from within the department and one employee from outside the department who has two years' experience working in the field. It was a very competitive process and we looking forward to the two that will be joining our team.

VI. **Assistant Directors Report:**

- **Spring Registration.** Registration began on March 7. We are offering some new afterschool programs at the three elementary schools.
- **Adult and Evening Programs:** We continue to offer our regular adult class. New this session we are offering a Water Fit for Active Adults at the YMCA
- **Theatre Arts:** We have over 40 registered for the summer production of Alice and Wonderland. The Directors have decided to keep registration open and have two casts so that all can participate.
- **Aquatics:** Winter swim lessons are finishing up. Spring classes will start at the end of April. We are in the planning stages for the summer classes at Hospice and working with the YMCA for pool time to continue to offer lesson next winter when WIS is off line due to construction. Our staff has been very supportive during this process. We hosted the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Catherine Shockley Swim Meet on March 6<sup>th</sup>. There were over 70 swimmers ranging from age 4 to 16. Two American Legion Officers presented the awards to the swimmers. Hospice Pool Passes went on sale March 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Special Events:**
  - a. The Kinney/Bradley Basketball Tournament has been come to end. We had another successfully year.
  - b. Flash Light Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt: April 6<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Old Fashion Spelling Bee: April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Annual Easter Egg Hunt: April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - e. Skyhoundz Dog Frisbee Contest: May 11th
- **New Classes/Programs:** Enrichment classes at all three elementary Schools: Floor Hockey with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers and Whiffle Ball will be offered in each of the elementary schools. A babysitting Training class will be offered at WIS.
- **Bus Trips:** We have partnered with North Branford Parks and Recreation to offer a trip to see the World Champion Red Sox take on the Tampa Bay Rays on June 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Special Community Events:** Annual Jazz night at the Stony Creek Brewery April 4<sup>th</sup> to benefit the scholarship fund. Tickets are 25.00 each. We have partnered with the DEEP to hose a Beginners Family Fishing Clinic on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Other:** The social media posting has boosted our exposure in the community and participation with our classes and events. WIS gymnasium will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will re-open when school resumes in September. The Department is

updating their software and the staff has been training. We will be launching it April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Branford:** We continue to meet bi-weekly and new events continue to be added to the calendar. Check the website at [www.branford375.com](http://www.branford375.com) for details. There will be a Birthday Celebration highlighting the year's events in January 2020. The event will take place at Woodwinds. Tickets will be available for \$50.
- **Employees:** We will be looking for summer part time employees especially for lifeguarding.

**Upcoming events and Activities:**

- Glow In the Dark Easter Hunt: April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Old Fashion Spelling Bee: April 11<sup>th</sup>
- April Vacation Camp April 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>
- Skyhoundz Dog Frisbee Contest: May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Registration: June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Jazz Concert Series: Begins June 27<sup>th</sup>

**VII. Old Business:** None

**VIII. New Business:** None

**Next Meeting:**

April 10, 2019

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:54 PM

1<sup>st</sup>: Paul Criscuolo    2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill O'Brien    passed 5-0