

Parks & Recreation Facilities tour  
June 28, 2023 6 pm

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Council met at 6pm in the Village Center, in attendance were; Renee Lemmerman, Dave Melious, Lauren Sheprow, Beth Capadano, Lois Kilkenny, Robert Gross, Rima Potter, Mary O'Sullivan. We began the tour at Jeanne Garant Harborfront park. Members were asked for input on each park. Renee and Dave were asked for guidance on what maintenance was required at each park, as well as usage for programs.

Jeanne Garant Harborfront Park - Requires everyday maintenance, garbage removal, mow 2 times a week. It was estimated that the size is 3 acres. Lauren suggested looking in the historical binders that were compiled for an accurate description. The walkway will be resurfaced, it is on hold at the moment because of the busy season.

Turtle Park - Mary O'Sullivan brought up concerns about the drainage, and slippery walkways when the frog sprinklers are in use. Dave mentioned that drainage is an issue because of the high water table.

Bus Stop - The structure was originally a jitney stop. It is no longer in use. Dave commented that it could be removed, and that he removes graffiti from it at least 2 times a week.

Centennial Park - Leased from Brookhaven for \$1 a year, the contract will be renegotiated soon. It is currently being used by the rowing club, most days of the week. The rowers had been taking over the picnic benches with their backpacks. A rack system was built so that they could hang them instead. There has been some damage to the tables. It was noted that James, who runs the rowing club has cameras installed on his equipment, and a new permit for the Rowing Club is currently being negotiated.

Clifton H Lee - Rocketship park is maintained on a daily basis. Dave checks the equipment 3 days a week. 2- 3 times a month the patio by the benches is power washed.

Tennis Courts - The recreation department uses the courts multiple days a week for tennis and pickleball. Renee has created a pathway of programs for tennis with approximately 500 people playing in these programs. The turf was added to the courts 7 years ago, with a potential life span of 20 years. It was acquired through a matching grant with the USTA, with each contributing \$30,000. The courts have received recognition from the USTA.

Little Barn/Salt Meadow - It was originally used for children's shows and movies, which are now shown at Harborfront park. The facilities are now used for storage and staging for The Parks Department. The trailer located in the back is an office, breakroom and contains a bathroom.

Pocket parks - located throughout the Village are maintained by the Parks Department on a daily basis. Plantings, flowers and weeding are done by the Parks Department.

Joe Erland Field - Dave mentioned that there is everyday maintenance to the field, and that it is cut 3- 4 times a week. There is a building located at the rear of the property that houses a pump station for Lawrence aviation. Mill Pond Park is located in the rear of the building, the water from the pump is filtered into it. This is maintained by a steward. There is a parking lot behind the baseball field.

Beech Street Garden - This area is mowed by the Parks Department. The members of the Community Garden weed and maintain the enclosed area.

Roosevelt Ave - It was discussed that it is potentially 4- 5 acres. It is currently being used as a field by local children. While there we saw a lacrosse net and soccer net set up. Lauren mentioned that at our next meeting we will have community members attend to discuss their feelings on the park and its usage.

Village Beach - East - A handicap mat was added at the end of the parking lot. Lauren asked about any erosion issues. Dave responded that there has been some loss of sand, and that he felt the jetty should have been longer. A volleyball net has been added to the beach. The bathrooms have been updated, with privacy extensions being installed, and painted. Renee requested that the door to the lifeguard space be painted, as well as a screen installed. The

Recreation Department holds summer camp there two days a week from 9 - 4, and has approximately 80 children enrolled. The kayak rack has been expanded , adding new spots. It can hold 54 kayaks at this point, the rack was about half full.

Village Beach - West - A handicap mat was added at the base of the stairs. This was purchased by the Parks Department this year at a cost of \$2500. It is 5 ½ feet wide by 50 ft long. It was suggested that a ramp be installed to give ADA access from parking lot to sand. It is periodically blown off from sand. The bathrooms were updated, painted and privacy extensions were added. A volleyball net was installed.

Port Jefferson Country Club @ Harbor Hills - There are 4 Lighted clay tennis courts that are under construction and not currently in use. There are 4 lower tennis courts that are also not being used.

6 acre Park - A suggestion was made to look up the current proposal for the space. When Rebecca Kassay attends the July meeting we will ask her to discuss the proposal.

Texaco Park - This park has playground equipment, basketball net and pickleball court. Dave has a storage container there , and it has been broken into twice.

Lauren mentioned that this was paid for by the developers of the Hills Complex. New housing developments are assessed a \$ 1500 per unit fee as a recreation fee. This money is currently sitting in a fund, and it should be used by Parks and Recreation. Some of these funds are being used for the 6 acre park.

Added to the agenda was the need to discuss the Village Center's not for profit rates and the creation of a subcommittee. NFP are approaching the recreation department for free space usage within the Village Center. The Coast guard, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, School District, and Lisec have all approached The Recreation Department. A few questions were asked; Mary O' Sullivan asked what the school district was charging when the recreation department wanted to use the pool for swim lessons? Another member asked what if the

organization is charging for the program? Two members offered to join this sub committee - Beth Capadano, Lois Kilkenny

The meeting adjourned at 8:20