

## TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, December 5, 2019** – 2 pages

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kelly Kearney, Vice Chairman, at the Apple Barn. Other commission members who were present included Gerry Wetjen, Dennis Fallon, Sarah Cramer, Elizabeth Keppel, Lori Coppinger and Rachel Wellman. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, was also present.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

No changes were made to the July 18, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes, August 29, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and October 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Kearney declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record

### **Public Session**

None.

### **Presentations**

*None*

### **New Business**

*Golf Course Year End Summary – John Verrengia, Golf Course Professional, Mike Wallace, Golf Course Superintendent.* Mr. Wallace shared that the year brought the fifth green on line and it was received favorably by the golfing public. They continued to work on the drainage issues, there was a new forward tee constructed for the fifth hole and the existing forward tee on the fifth hole was removed. This winter trees will be removed which have grown up on the bank of the existing dam. Many of the tees have sunken areas where the former irrigation lines were installed, plans are being made to repair some tees in the spring.

Mr. Verrengia shared the end of the year report. He stated that they went to the one-rate fee system, and they did not hear any negative feedback about it. Next year, they would like to run a Ladies Day Special, advertise it and provide them with a special rate. This winter, the staff is working with Anthology Senior Living to run a golf simulator (in an effort to get the word out about the Farms). Next year, they plan to run a new PGA Junior GolfLeague for kids. The total number of outings was slightly down this year, lost one to the restaurant but picked up another.

*Sustainable CT Silver Designation.* Ms. Cramer spoke regarding Simsbury's Silver Designation. The goal moving forward is to be more forward thinking when projects are being done. Only nine Connecticut towns achieved the silver status this year.

*Simsbury Celebrates Final Thoughts.* Mr. Tyburski reported that Simsbury Celebrates was a great night with great weather. They saw a large fundraising burst in the last 6-8 weeks, which will help the event to break even this year, leaving the planning committee with some carryover funds for next year. Next year, they will put out more trash cans.

*Simsbury Farms Rink Update.* Mr. Tyburski shared a report about the start of the season, this fall the rink opened almost two weeks late due to weather conditions and lost over \$5,800 of revenue. Additionally Simsbury Youth Hockey and few other regular rental groups reduced their overall rink time causing the season to open over \$10,000 in the red.

*Simsbury Skate and Share – Dec. 23 at Simsbury Farms.* Mr. Tyburski shared that this a great food collection drive for the Simsbury Food pantry. There will be free skate rentals, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate and donuts.

*Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund Budget Discussion.* Mr. Tyburski is requesting that the programming and administrative staff salaries and benefits be accounted for in the general fund. Mr. Tyburski recommends that the cost recovery for the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department programming be based on advertising, on-site instruction, materials/programming supplies, transportation, etc. not the expenses associated with full time program staff. Also, it is recommended that the Town begin recognizing the aquatic/rink facility as a park/public service, not a net revenue source to the fund. Mr. Wetjen made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to support the department's mission of providing a public service, and as such, the cost of staffing, facilities and utilities that are currently in the special revenue fund should be moved to the Town's general fund. Ms. Coppinger seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

*2020 Meeting Dates – Discussion and Approval.* Mr. Wetjen made a motion to accept the 2020 dates with a 6:00 p.m. start time. Ms. Coppinger seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

## **Old Business**

*Commission Discussion on Long Term Vision for Simsbury Farms Golf Course Restaurant.* Mr. Kearney discussed the six improvements the commission wishes to endorse, a full-service bar, larger kitchen, larger dining area, larger outdoor dining area with outdoor grilling area, fire code adjustments as needed and a permanent outdoor event pavilion where existing structure sits. Ms. Coppinger made a motion to accept the long term vision as shown. Mt. Wetjen seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

*Simsbury Farms Sign Project Update.* Mr. Tyburski reported that the sign project is subject to the zoning approval process. Mr. Tyburski would like the Friends of the Farm to submit the permit application.

*Update on Parks and Open Space Master Plan Process.* Mr. Tyburski shared that they are still finishing up the analysis from the surveys they did. On January 8, 2020, they will be presenting the draft parks and open space master plan to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Commission, the final presentation to the Board of Selectmen will be in February.

Mr. Kearney thanked Mr. Fallon for his service. Mr. Fallon is resigning from the Culture, Parks and Recreation after many years of service to the Town.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Fallon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Special Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be January 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Simsbury Public Library's Tariffville Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor, Commission Clerk