

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, March 25, 2021** – 3 pages

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman via Zoom video conference. Other commission members who were present included Kelly Kearney, Rachel Wellman, Sarah Kramer, Lori Coppinger, Liz Keppel, and Danielle Celli. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski, Golf Professional, John Verrengia; and Simsbury Farms Golf Course Superintendent, Brian Johnson were also in attendance.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

No changes were made to the February 25, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**Public Session:**

None.

**New Business**

*FY22 Culture, Parks and Recreation Budget Process Update-* Mr. Tyburski shared that the Board of Selectmen decided to keep all of the budget requests and operational funding requests that they made in their budget that they are sending to public hearing on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tyburski stated that he would appreciate any support the commission could offer via comments. Mr. Kearney asked for clarification that the maintenance technician position isn't a net gain. Mr. Tyburski stated that is correct, it's a staffing restoration rather than a new position. Mr. Tyburski also stated the Meadowood Open Space Acquisition proposal is still in the budget at this time.

**Old Business**

*Simsbury Farms Golf Update* – Mr. Johnson shared that they are concentrating on cleaning up the golf course for the next week or so and that he has rolled the greens twice already. Mr. Bush asked if they had to deal with any storm damage. Mr. Johnson stated that there was only minor storm damage with a couple trees blowing over and they are in the process of cleaning those up. Mr. Verrengia shared that they are off to a really good start, they opened the range on Saturday and had a really good weekend. He also stated that on Tuesday they opened up the course. Their junior camps and clinics and adult ones are starting to take off. Mr. Verrengia discussed the cart surcharge that was implemented last year. Mr. Tyburski stated that Chez Hospitality has hired a chef at the restaurant, they are looking at Thurs-Saturday full dinner menu and rest of the week more casual dining. They are targeting April 8th for their soft opening date. They are pursuing a provisional beer and wine license. Mr. Kearney stated he feels the restaurant's future is intertwined with the restaurant's liquor license, he thinks they need to keep it in the forefront. Mr. Tyburski stated there are some security issues that have to be addressed at the Farms before they can proceed with the full liquor permit.

*Basketball Court Lighting Update* – Mr. Tyburski stated that with the help of Friends of Simsbury Farms they are going to be able to get the lighting done this spring. Friends of Simsbury Farms and a private donor agreed to cover three quarters of the funding for the project and that Town has agreed to cover the remaining \$12K-13K. The target project end date is May 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Summer Program Update-* Mr. Tyburski reported that Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo sold out in two weeks and they have extensive waiting lists in all sessions, they are hoping to be able to add additional spots (possibly up to 10/week) depending on staffing availability. All the sports camps, swim lessons and pool passes are also doing well.

*Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update-* Mr. Tyburski stated they are starting to buy signage, they are close to ordering the sign for Simsbury Farms and the flower bridge. Mr. Tyburski reported that he is still working

with an eagle scout on an improvement at Onion Mountain and hopefully the playground will go up at West Mountain later this summer. Mr. Tyburski encouraged the Commission to show their support for the parking and accessibility improvements at Simsbury Meadows which are in the budget. He stated that the estimated cost is 700K and they have a grant for just over 100K. Mr. Kearney asked if the flower bridge structural problem has been fixed. Mr. Tyburski stated that the issue that reduced the capacity of the bridge has been repaired but in the next five years the bridge will need a major overhaul, which eventually will be a large project in the town's capital plan.

Mr. Bush stated that Mr. Kearney has submitted his resignation as a board member of Friends of the Farm and thanked him for all of his hard work. He also stated that Ms. Celli will be resigning from the Sustainability Committee, with no nominations there was no further action on this item. Mr. Bush stated that there is a provision that states that a member of C.P.R. should be a member of the Open Space Committee. Mr. Bush made Mr. Kearney his designee to the Open Space Committee to replace himself as he throws his hat into the ring to replace Mr. Kearney on the Friends of the Farm Board.

Ms. Coppinger asked if there was a possibility of letting the field at Great Pond and Laurel Lane revert to its natural state instead of mowing it. Mr. Tyburski stated that this year the intent is to leave it until the end of the season and then mow it after the first frost.

Ms. Celli stated she is still looking for donors for playground equipment but she did find people that would be interested in helping maintain the playgrounds. Mr. Tyburski stated that there is 200K in the proposed budget at this time for playground equipment at Simsbury Farms and if that goes forward that would be a good place to involve the community. Ms. Keppel stated she is also trying a community organizations to donate, although they are not ready this year, they are looking for specific items to donate.

Mr. Kearney asked what the pickle ball options in town are right now. Mr. Tyburski stated that residents can use Henry James after school hours. The court at Tariffville Park is open, however, it has cracks that have to be repaired. There were cracks on the courts at Simsbury Farms, the in-house crew did repair them. There is another request from a pickle ball player in town to do permanent lines on one or two of the Simsbury Farms courts

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Keppel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be April 22, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor,  
Commission Clerk