



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Culture, Parks and Recreation

SIMSBURY CULTURE, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 6:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

AGENDA

Presentation – Joshua Moon, Simsbury Little League President

Presentation – Simsbury Performing Arts Center, Inc. update

Public Session – Comments limited to 3 minutes per person.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments

Minutes – September 29, 2022 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

New Business

Simsbury Celebrates 2022 – Tom Tyburski

2023 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Proposed Meeting Schedule

Old Business

Proposal to add two additional sets of pickleball lines to Simsbury Farms courts

Simsbury Farms Playground Renovation Subcommittee -Tom Tyburski

Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update – Tom Tyburski

Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:00pm.

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, September 29, 2022** – 3 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dave Bush, Chairman at Simsbury Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included, Lori Coppinger, Kelly Kearney, Danielle Celli, Christine Boswell, Rachel Wellman, Liz Keppel, and Michelle Lipar The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski, Recreation Supervisor, John Thibeault, Program Coordinator Caitrin Huysman and Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Petersen were also in attendance.

Public Session:

Duane Royce, 26 Harvest Hill Road, spoke in support of additional pickleball lines being added at Simsbury Farms.

Rich Murphy, 24 Watson Drive, spoke in support of additional pickleball lines being added at Simsbury Farms.

Judy Gessford, 37 Carver Circle, spoke in support of additional pickleball lines being added at Simsbury Farms.

Bill Donahue- 36 Hildurcrest Drive, spoke against additional pickleball lines being added at Simsbury Farms.

John Eckel, 10 Vincent Drive, questioned why there can't be both tennis and pickleball lines on all courts.

Lori Swenson 111 North Saddle Ridge, spoke against additional pickleball lines being added at Simsbury Farms.

Richard Utican, 325 Knobs Way, asked if there are pickleball courts at the High School.

Jennifer Eudicone, 325 Millers Way stated that there appears to be less usage of the courts for tennis than pickleball.

Wendy Mackstutis, 16 Hunting Ridge Drive, shared that during the summer at her pickleball lessons in Granby there seemed to be no issue with the pickleball and tennis players sharing space.

Timothy Ryan, 10 Oakwood Road, submitted a written comment in support of painting the additional pickleball lines at Simsbury Farms.

Andy Brower, 17 Shady Lane, submitted a written comment in support of adding additional pickleball lines at Simsbury Farms.

Welcome to new Culture, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Michelle Lipar –Mr. Bush welcomed the new Commission member.

Presentation – Nick Powers, Eagle Scout Candidate – Mr. Powers shared that his project will take place on the trail off West Mountain Road. He will be renovating three existing benches and creating a rock garden as well as signage talking about invasive species and wildlife.

Mr. Bush asked what types of funds are needed for his project and his efforts to secure those. Mr. Powers stated that he has been promised \$150 by the Town and will need to raise \$150 more. He stated he will need 5-10 scouts to accomplish the work and he is trying to get it done before winter.

Presentation- Simsbury Youth Hockey- Mr. Melanson shared that Simsbury Youth Hockey is still a community sport and an all-volunteer organization. The Board consists of 17 members. They try to keep the cost down and that's where Simsbury comes in with the partnership with the Farms. There are over 250 kids in program and tryouts are held in September/October. They use the three rinks in Town but the Farms is the greatest purchase of ice time. Mr.

Melanson stated that he appreciates all the support he has received from Mr. Tyburski and Mr. Thibeault over the years. He also stated that soccer, lacrosse and hockey communicate regularly about when tryouts are going to be, etc.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments

No comments.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Bush declared the July 28, 2022 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

New Business

Simsbury 50th Anniversary Celebration Recap – Mr. Tyburski introduced the new Recreation Coordinator, Caitrin Huysman. Mr. Tyburski thanked all of this staff for all the events they pulled off this summer, stating that everyone pitched in and made it happen.

Summer 2022 Aquatics Season Recap – Mr. Thibeault shared that there was over \$277k grossed, an increase of over \$39k. The biggest driver of expenses was staffing due to the minimum wage increase. The snack bar grossed \$2k more, passes did better however they didn't sell as many. Mr. Thibeault stated that they will be thinking of different packages they can sell. They grossed over \$8k in lessons and over \$3k in swim team. Usage was up and they did over 24k visits for public swim. Mr. Thibeault acknowledged his staff and stated he is fortunate to have a great team.

Mr. Bush asked how was the usage of the picnic area was. Mr. Tyburski stated that it was light, the food truck didn't really succeed there.

Ms. Celli asked what the thoughts on the future of Memorial Pool. Mr. Thibeault stated that camp has big usage at the pool, however, Memorial is basically used by the public for the wading pool. They have made attempts to open the big pool but they just don't get the numbers. Mr. Tyburski stated that Memorial Pool is in the Capital Plan so the Town will have to make a decision on the viability of the pool. The place holder in the budget is for replacing the existing pool with a splash pad.

Summer 2022 Camp Season Recap – Ms. Huysman shared that in the sports camps and programs they had over 900 kids, enrichment camps over 200 kids, Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo over 700 kids. They also had a new disc golf camp at Tower Ridge and will be offering an adult clinic in October as well.

Mr. Bush asked if waitlists are an issue. Mr. Tyburski stated some with swim lessons, nothing else is filled within days. He also stated that ski registration starts tomorrow morning and skating lesson registration starts Saturday.

Additional Pickleball Lines at Simsbury Farms – Ms. Boswell shared that she is getting pressure from the group of people many of whom were in attendance tonight. She stated that on any given morning 14-22 people show up to play. They played at Henry James all summer, then moved to the Farms once school resumed. They have tried to come up with a solution to the courts, she stated she bought some temporary lines, however when it is windy they come up and could also be a tripping hazard. She has taught over 70 people in pickleball lessons in the last 6 months. Ms. Boswell stated that there isn't enough tennis usage at the Farms versus the people wanting to play pickleball. She stated she hasn't found anybody there that says the pickleball lines bother them playing tennis.

Ms. Coppinger asked if when the new pickleball courts open in Tariffville, the lines will be removed from the Farms.

Mr. Tyburski commented that they would likely leave them there as Tariffville's courts won't have lights and it costs money to take the lines off the courts. Ms. Boswell stated she would be happy to pay for the painting of the additional lines. Ms. Keppel questioned who would pay for them to be painted over if it was determined they should be removed.

Mr. Kearney stated that he felt that the Commission needs more data to get the complete picture, needs to hear from pros, regular recreation players, parks and rec directors from around the state. Mr. Tyburski will ask additional questions of the CT Parks and Recreation Association's membership for the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Rec Commission.

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to table any action on adding the additional lines to allow Mr. Tyburski the opportunity to do some additional fact finding. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Boswell opposed.

Mr. Tyburski made the Commission aware of the fact that if this item is tabled until the next meeting, it will be too cold to paint the additional pickleball lines this fall if an approval came at that time.

Old Business

Friends of Simsbury Farms Golf Tournament Update – Mr. Tyburski stated that there are 152 golfers signed up for the tournament. Mr. Bush recognized Mr. Kearney for all his marketing on the tournament.

Simsbury Farms Playground Renovation Subcommittee – Mr. Tyburski shared that the subcommittee has met and discussed the playground and got ideas back from them. One vendor is offering a grant program and have got one design from them but it came back over budget. They will have to meet as a group again to decide what they want to include in the playground to make it as accessible as possible. It is the goal to get it installed by next Spring.

Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that West Mountain playground was installed in August. The plan is to add an expression swing there as well. He shared that their parks' maintenance software is up and running and they will be getting work orders on their phone. A small sign will be put at trail heads and recreation facilities, if you see something amiss or vandalism scan the QR code to notify the Parks Maintenance staff of the issue.

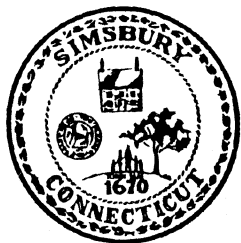
Adjourn

Ms. Keppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be October 27, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager

To: Patricia Munroe, Town Clerk

Cc: David Bush, Chairman, Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Thomas Tyburski, Director, Culture, Parks and Recreation Department

Date: October 28, 2022

Re: Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission - 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on October 27, 2022 the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission agreed by consensus to continue their regular meeting schedule for typically the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:00pm, beginning in January and ending in December, 2023. The Commission will not meet in August or November and chooses to meet on the first Thursday in December instead of the fourth.

Meeting dates are as follows:

January 26, 2023
February 23, 2023
March 23, 2023
April 27, 2023
May 25, 2023
June 22, 2023
July 27, 2023
No meeting in August 2023
September 28, 2023
October 26, 2023
No meeting in November 2023
December 7, 2023 (1st Thursday due to holidays)

The meetings will be held in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall, located at 933 Hopmeadow Street. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.

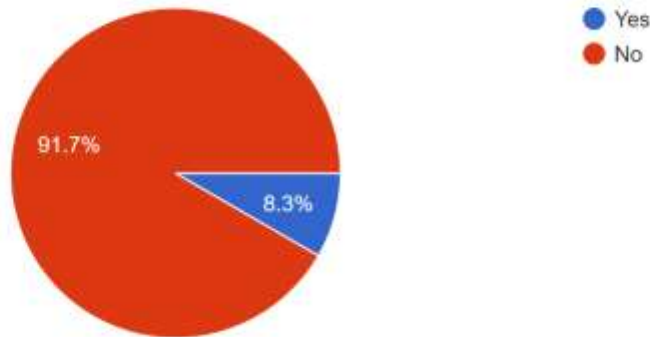
OCTOBER 2022 PICKLEBALL AND MULTI-LINED COURT SURVEY RESULTS

CHARTS ONLY

Survey emailed to the entire membership of the
Connecticut Parks & Recreation Association – 35 responses received

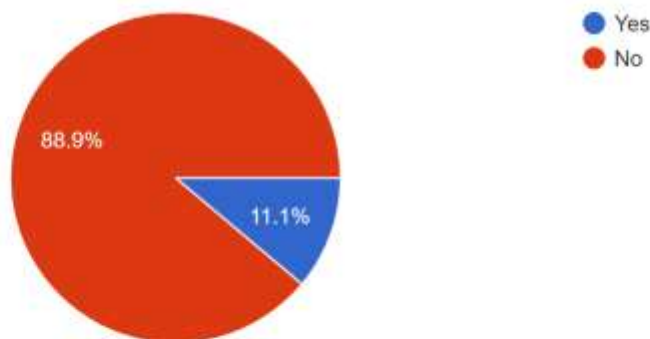
Do you have any rules or policies concerning pickleball and tennis being played on adjacent courts?

36 responses



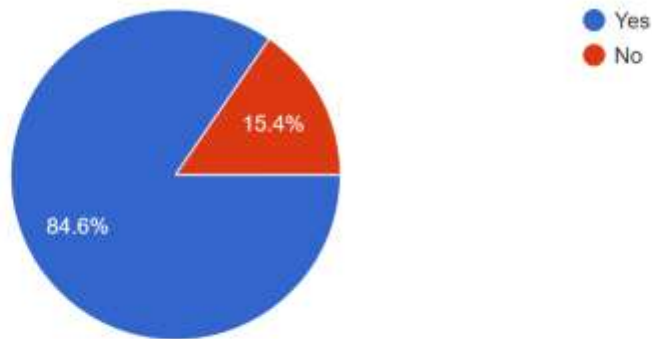
If you have multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, have you seen a decline in tennis activity since adding the pickleball lines?

27 responses



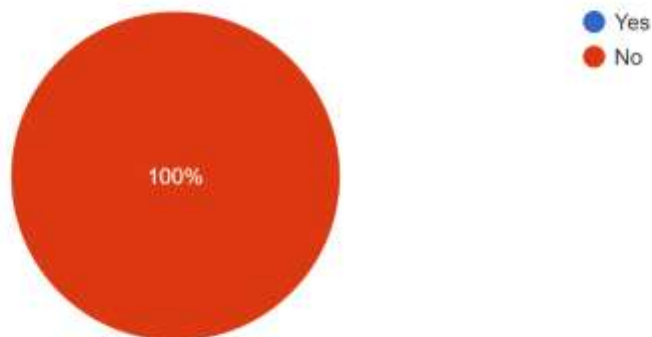
If you have multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, are you still holding tennis lessons on them?

26 responses



If you are teaching tennis lessons on multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, have you seen a decline in enrollment since adding the pickleball lines?

23 responses



Fall 2022 CRPA Pickleball and Multi-lined Court Survey

Name of Town	Approximate population	How many outdoor tennis courts does your community have?	How many of these outdoor tennis courts are lined for pickleball play as well?	How many outdoor pickleball-only courts does your community have?	Do you have any rules or policies concerning pickleball and tennis being played on adjacent courts?	If you do have rules or policies regarding side by side tennis and pickleball play, please share them here.	If you have multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, have you seen a decline in tennis activity since adding the pickleball lines?	If you have multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, are you still holding tennis lessons on them?	If you are teaching tennis lessons on multi-lined outdoor tennis/pickleball courts, have you seen a decline in enrollment since adding the pickleball lines?	Please share any other comments you may have regarding the co-existence of tennis and pickleball in the same location.
Simsbury (For comparison Purposes)	25,000	15	7	0 (6 to be built in '23)	No	NA	No	Not at this time	NA	
Middletown	50,000	14	6	0	No		No	Yes	No	Its mostly the pickleballers that complain as we don't have standard pickleball courts. We refurbished all of our tennis courts recently (last 4 years) so tennis has generally been on the rise.
Cheshire	29,000	12	0	6	No					Town Council approved court lighting for 6 pickleball only courts and not the 3 adjacent tennis because at another location there are 6 tennis only courts with lights
Stratford	52000	14	10	4	No		No	Yes	No	
Fairfield	61000	36	14	5	No	N/A	No	Yes	No	These two groups don't typically run in the same circles and are overly competitive with each other. This declined when we built a few pickleball only locations. Prior to that they would fight constantly over court space and the "double" lines which both groups hate.
Bloomfield	20,000	6	6	3	No		No	Yes	No	We added pickleball lines to the courts about a year ago and have seen an increase in usage of the courts.
Norwalk	90000	32	5	4	No		No	Yes	No	
Watertown	23,000 + -	4	2	-0-	No	None, the Pickleball courts get more use than the tennis courts	No	Yes	No	As stated above, the Pickleball lined courts are getting more play than the tennis courts
Branford	30,000	22	16	0	No		No	Yes	No	Pickle Ball has exploded in Branford and our surrounding communities. Good Luck Tom!
Rocky Hill	22,000	7	2	0	No		Yes	Yes	No	Pickleball seems to be more played during the day time (mostly seniors) and tennis is played more at night, especially on our lit courts. We are looking into building pickleball specific courts in the near future.
Darien	21,000	9	3	4	No		No	No		We are currently constructing post tension tennis courts that will also be lined for pickleball- we had pickle ball lines on the old courts so I don't foresee a problem but feel free to check back with us
Mansfield	25,000	1, plus 6 regional HS courts open for public use but are not town courts	1	1 shared. 6 courts to be constructed spring 2023	No	no				We only have one dual lined PB and tennis court. There has been resident concerns expressed about shared use. 6 new PB only courts are tentatively to be constructed with primarily private funds in spring 2023.

Fall 2022 CRPA Pickleball and Multi-lined Court Survey

										The tennis folks complained at first but after a few weeks the noise stopped The town is planning on building 4-6 stand alone pickle ball courts in the next few years as the
Salisbury	4000	3	2	0	No		No	Yes	No	
Stamford	135,470	24	5	0	Yes	Shared Tennis and Pickle Ball Court Courtesy When other open Tennis Courts are available in Cummings Park, please have the courtesy to either leave these two Pickle Ball Courts open and or discontinue playing tennis on the Pickle Ball courts when Pickle Ball players arrive. One hour of maximum play time for both Tennis and Pickle Ball play is allowed when others are waiting to get on a court. We appreciate your cooperation.	No	Yes	No	Pickle Ball courts are becoming very popular and the City of Stamford is looking to invest for stand alone pickle ball sites within the park system
Southbury	20,000	6	2	0	No		No	Yes	No	patrons are able to reserve courts at nominal fee
Farmington	25,000	4 - 8 were recently removed from FHS due to construction of new school. They will be added back in the future.	None	We will be constructing 2 - 4 courts beginning in 2023.	No					
Town	15000	9 courts	3 courts	0; though we are proposing them in our capital budget	No		No	Yes	No	
Bristol	60,000	9 (under parks. Additional courts at High Schools)	6	Currently we have 1 hybrid pickleball/tennis court but are constructing additional courts in the spring	No		No	Yes	No	In a perfect world every community would have dedicated pickleball courts but since we do not, we have to make modifications to existing facilities. While tennis users don't love it, it doesn't cause any major issues.
Sherman	3600 year round, 6000 summer	3	3	0	No		No	Yes	No	Our tennis players and pickleball players have been getting along fine
Windsor	29,500	19	6	0	No		No	No		We currently have three line indoor pickleball courts on our gymnasium floor.
Weston	10,200	6	0	Adding 2	No					
Stonington	18,000	6	0	2	No	We have 2 dedicated pickleball courts directly next to the tennis courts				We are in the middle of a construction project and are adding 2 dedicated pickleball courts with the hope to keep them separate from the tennis courts.
Town of Litchfield	8000	2 at community field; 4 at high school	0	0	No	none				We've been asked to do multiple lines on our tennis courts since the high school has public access to their tennis courts, but our tennis community is very outspoken. We just started pickleball clinics and courses this summer with full capacity for 3 courts (we chalk out the lines on the tennis courts so that they don't stay).

Fall 2022 CRPA Pickleball and Multi-lined Court Survey

Newtown	28,000	11	5	9	No		No	Yes	No	the pickleball players don't really like and use the lined courts. the nets are a different height and they try to adjust them and they are always loose. They want specific regulation Pickleball courts.
New Canaan	19000	15 (7 All season and 8 Har-tru)	0	5	No	none				We need more pickleball so thinking adding lines to one or two of the all season courts for 4 - 8 more pickle courts.
Redding	8500	4	4	0	No		No	Yes	No	We just opened ours a week ago so my answers don't mean much
Bloomfield	20000	5	5	4	No		No	No	No	Since the we constructed 5 new tennis courts in 2020 which also have pickleball lines, we have received 1 complaint on the side of tennis. The complaint was more of a what if complaint; what if all courts are being used for pickleball and I want to play tennis. After speaking with numerous tennis and pickleball players this has yet to occur. If it becomes a problem we will post rules in favor of allowing the tennis players to use the courts since we have 4 additional pickleball only courts approximately .75 miles down the road. Our philosophy has been to address only if it becomes an issue and 2+ years later, there has been no issue.
Burlington	9,500	3	1	0	No		No	Yes	No	Our pickleball courts are used more than the tennis courts
Monroe	20020	7	2	2	Yes	i will email you separately with our policies	No	Yes	No	We have a wonderful group of pickleball players and a huge tennis program. There are schedules we made and everyone has been great. No major issues as long as information is posted. We need more pickleball courts though.
Oxford	13,000	2	none	0	Yes	The tennis courts were donated as a memorial and are only for tennis.				
West Hartford	64,000	38	0	12	No					We replaced 2 outdoor tennis courts with 6 dedicated pickleball courts in two locations, both of which have tennis courts remaining -- 4 in one location and 2 in the other. We're working on refining better signage; the rules are similar but different. We will have two different signs for the two different uses.
Goshen	3000	2 public	2	0	No		No			
Easton, CT	7,000	2	2	0	No		No	Yes	No	
Meriden	60,000	we had 8 now only 5		zero. We had lines at one park. Repaved the court and put in permanent Pickleball	No		Yes	No		We have seen a huge decline in tennis playing. We have taken out one court - replaced with basketball. Two other tennis courts completely converted to pickleball.
Granby	11,375	4	4	4	No		No	Yes	No	
Greenwich	63,518	47	12	2	No		Yes	Yes	No	
Avon	16,000	12	2	0	No		No	Yes	No	