

**New Hartford Recreation**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

**Call to Order:** 7:02pm

**Members Present:** Joe Petrarca, Arnie Helt, Ed McCann, Jeremy Schaller, Linda Aquavia

**Members Absent:** Roxanne Helt, Mark McCarthy

**Others Present:** Recreation Director Christy Tellier, Rick Berneike, Dale Martin, Carin Ross

**Opportunity For Public Comment:**

None

**Butler Farm & Riverfront Preservation Project Presentation**

Carin Ross presented information on the Butler Farm & Riverfront Preservation Project. It is a public trail along the Farmington River. A walk is scheduled for Saturday at 10:00am. The purchase of the property will be voted the same day as the regular town referendum. It would be a passive recreation area composed of over 93 acres along the Farmington River. Adequate parking would be available to residents at New Hartford Elementary School. Joe asked about maintenance of the trail. Carin stated the trail would need to be maintained.

**Browns Corner Fields Presentation**

Dale Marin and Rick Berneike were present to discuss the field maintenance at Browns Corner. They each introduced themselves. It was explained that the youth sports programs are independent from Recreation. The town mows the fields at Browns Corner and maintains the buildings, but overall field maintenance is cared for by the independent youth organizations. The youth sports organizations combined spend \$15,000 - \$17,000 per year in fertilization and care of the fields. The fields are always complemented for their condition. Baseball fields are the most expensive to maintain due to the in fields and clay. The soccer and baseball programs work well together maintaining the entire park, but it is a public park that people often also come in to use.

Dale stated that the baseball fields cost \$8,000 - \$10,000 annually. The pitchers mounds are very specific in height and care. There is often public damage that needs remedy, such as adults allowing their children to dig in the pitcher mounds like a sand pit. Baseball registration numbers have stayed strong. It is approximately \$110 per athlete for registration. The older youth pay approximately \$150 in registration, whereas t-ball is approximately \$70. Registration for the program takes in approximately \$15,000.

Rick stated that in all towns, there is money collected in registration fees. Those fees help cover costs of running the program. The other Recreation Departments, however, have full

time employees that maintain the parks and parents are not allowed to do any work. Park employees take care of the turf, lining fields, etc.

It is estimated that Rick spends approximately 180-200 hour annually maintaining the fields at Browns Corner. Dale added that he is glad they can take care of the fields because in some towns, such as Winsted, games have been cancelled due to puddles because they are union and maintenance is not necessarily on duty to address the field needs at the time the games are scheduled.

In the shared area at Browns, the open field, it is approximately \$7,800 to maintain. The soccer program pays the bill up front and a bill is sent to each sports organization based on their use. 1 use is equivalent to a game or a practice.

Joe asked if there was a dollar amount that the group was looking to request. There is an \$8,000 bill that is a shared expense and an additional \$8,000-\$10,000 for baseball only. There is also an irrigation system.

There was discussion about the town's involvement and volunteer involvement and cooperation of overseeing the park through the years.

Arnie felt it would be appropriate to request an addition to the next year's budget to cover materials. He felt the labor aspect would be difficult, but the materials should be considered since it is a town park. The tennis courts at Brodie are maintained at the expense of the town, so the fields at Browns should be considered. Arnie felt this was not a want, it was a need. It is a town field.

Invoices for various work at Browns were presented.

Joe asked about summer camps that were held at Browns Corner and if there was ever consideration of renting the fields. It was agreed that Browns is currently quite busy and should be maintained as a youth facility first and foremost. If other activities can fit in the scheduling and don't greatly damage the surface, they are fit in and considered. However, more uses of the fields would result in more cost for maintenance and repair.

There was discussion of allowing out of town leagues, and it was discussed that perhaps consideration should be made that if it were allowed, an additional field could be charged for non-taxpaying resident associations.

### **Discussion of Signage at Parks**

Additional signs regarding dogs being leashed and not on playing fields were requested at Browns Corner. It was further discussed if a rules sign should be posted. Signs should include emergency and routine maintenance phone numbers.

### **Food Trucks at Parks**

Discussion of allowing food trucks at the parks was discussed. Food trucks were not opposed, however, it was agreed by the commission that there should be designated areas and they should generate income. Trucks should be scheduled with the Recreation Office and be time and event specific.

**Old Business:**

Joe and Christy walked through Brodie Park looking at some of the buildings to consider maintenance items for the next budget year. The Nurse's Cabin and the Rain Cabin are both in need of upgrades. Consideration should be given to the state of the buildings and they need to either be maintained or removed.

**Financials:**

Financial were presented, everything within guidelines. No questions.

**Review of Activities:**

Ongoing planning for summer activities.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the February 22, 2018 were tabled.

Arnie made a motion to adjourn at 9:01pm seconded by Ed. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Tellier  
Recreation Director