

Daniel V. Jerram  
First Selectman



Town Hall  
530 Main Street  
Post Office Box 316  
New Hartford, CT

March 15, 2012

#### Recreation Commission Park Rules - Press Release

On Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the Recreation Commission met and approved, with limited review and consideration, twenty (20) rules that regulate activity at all town parks. These same rules were previously adopted in 1987 (see attached copy) for use only at Brodie Park, although many residents (and for that matter local officials) were largely unaware of their existence.


In some cases, many of the rules conflict with current programs and some would imply that some of our most popular, cherished town events would have to be significantly altered and/or cancelled. As a result of this vote the local Farmer's Market could not gain Planning & Zoning approval based on the parking restrictions contained within the rules (see attached copy). On a much simpler level, some routine things like walking a dog or riding a bike in a town park would be against the rules. Clearly these rules don't make sense for our community.

Upon receiving many complaints from town residents, I quickly contacted the Recreation Department to inform them that A. passage of these rules was inappropriate (*and in some cases illegal*) and B. the rules needed to be either repealed and/or revised immediately as the rules are obsolete and do not work for the residents of the Town of New Hartford.

Thankfully, as a result of my intervention, on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, the Recreation Commission met and held a Special Meeting to address these park rules, acknowledged the mistake and agreed to move toward correcting them quickly. Chairman John Maschi and I agreed that the Recreation Commission would establish a subcommittee to review and recommend a revised list of park rules and submit them to the Board of Selectman for consideration. The meeting was a productive start toward rectifying a problematic situation. I want to assure residents that I will not allow the outdated rules to be enforced and I hope everyone will exhibit patience and allow the Recreation Commission sufficient time to complete the new rules that can adequately serve the people of the Town of New Hartford.

We are blessed to have several beautiful town parks and open spaces. We are also fortunate to have many volunteers that help maintain these spectacular facilities. Hopefully, with careful thought and consideration, our volunteers can work to recommend a new set of rules that can guide the use of our parks for years to come so that all town residents can continue to enjoy them.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

Brodie Park Regulations  
Revised June 11, 1987

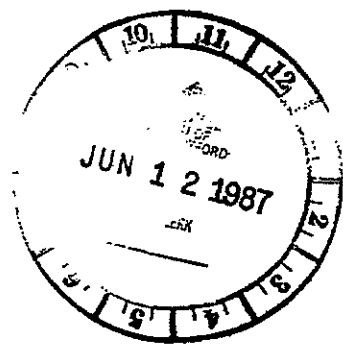
1. Hours: Sunrise to Sunset.
2. Only residents and/or property owners of New Hartford may purchase a park sticker. A sticker and/or walk-in card is required. However, non-resident groups, organizations and companies will be allowed to rent the facility as per group rental regulations.
3. Guests must be accompanied by a resident and/or property owner and are their responsibility.
4. All buildings are off limits unless otherwise stated.
5. During the Children's Summer Program (9 a.m. to noon - Monday through Thursday) the area set aside for the program is off limits to everyone except those people participating in the program.
6. Swimming will be allowed in designated areas only. Swimming will be allowed only when a guard is on duty. Specific regulations concerning swimming will be posted in the appropriate areas.
7. Picnicking, hiking, fishing (in designated areas), games and other non-supervised activities are welcome. However, residents are responsible for their own safety.
8. Tennis is open to town residents and/or property owners on a first come first served basis. Users must take care of the area. If there is a heavy demand for the courts, time will be limited to one hour and a half per group.
9. Boat launching and or beaching is permitted as per regulations.
10. No dogs, pets or other animals shall be allowed.
11. Parking shall be only in designated areas. No vehicles will be permitted to drive on the grounds. Parking on town roads adjacent to the park is prohibited.
12. Use of radios, cassette players, etc. must be maintained at the level that does not interfere with other users of the park and neighbors.
13. Unauthorized overnight camping is prohibited.
14. Hunting and trapping are prohibited in all areas.
15. Everyone must use designated entrances.
16. Use of motorized vehicles, including but not limited to motorcycles, ATV's, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, and bicycles is prohibited.
17. Residents and/or property owners wishing to have group activities must notify and receive approval from the town and/or Recreation Director. Regulation for group activities will be determined by the Recreation Commission.

0300

18. Infractions of the regulations may result in the loss of privileges.

19. Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult.

20. Open fires are prohibited. Grill cooking is permitted in designated picnic areas only.



**TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD  
530 MAIN STREET- TOWN HALL  
NEW HARTFORD, CT. 06057**

Land Use Office  
Phone - (860) 379-8830, (860) 379-7677  
Fax - (860) 738-7654

March 14, 2012

Town of New Hartford  
Dan Jerram, First Selectman  
530 Main St.  
New Hartford, CT 06057

Dear First Selectman Jerram:

As you know, the Farmers Market has been an annual event held in Chapin Park (aka Pine Meadow Green) for the past several years. Prior to the change in zoning regulations (which took effect 1-1-12), only an annual zoning permit was required. This year, however, the change in regulations requires that a site plan be approved in order to hold the event. The Farmers Market has also requested any approvals given be on-going, providing that the conditions of approvals do not change. The Commission is now able to grant requests such as this under site plan approval. On 3-1-12, the Farmers Market submitted a site plan application for consideration by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their 3-14-12 meeting. This application mirrors previous years zoning permit requirements. You, as owner of the property, have signed this application indicating your approval of this event.

Since the submission of the application, it has come to my attention that the Recreation Commission has taken action to reaffirm rules approved for Brodie Park in 1987 and additionally has extended those rules to ALL town parks. One (1) of the twenty (20) rules affirmed is "Parking shall be only in designated areas. No vehicles will be permitted to drive on the grounds. Parking on Town Roads adjacent to the park is prohibited."

Please be advised that one criterion that must be considered when the P&Z is reviewing a site plan is parking. Adequate parking must be shown on the site plan in compliance with the section 6.2 of the zoning regulations in order to gain approval. In the past, vehicles have been parked along Church Street, which has been deemed by the P&Z as adequate parking for the Farmers Market. If parking will no longer be allowed "adjacent to the park," the Farmers Market must show an alternative proposed parking site or their event cannot be approved. Additionally, vendor parking on the green has been approved by the Commission in the past. The approved Park rules now state "No vehicles will be permitted to drive on the grounds." Thus the site plan must now show adequate parking for both vendors and visitors.

If the Town wishes to continue with the Farmers Market in Chapin Park, it would be my recommendation that, you, as owner request a "continuance of the application" to the Planning and Zoning Commission in order to allow you or the Farmers Market adequate time to prepare a site plan that is consistent with rules and regulations of **both** the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Recreation Commission, as well as any other legal entities of the town (i.e. police).

Although, the P&Z may be able to approve the site plan on 3-14-12 (if they find the application consistent with zoning regulations) it appears that the current rules of the Recreation Commission would prohibit the event from occurring due to the fact that the approved (P&Z) parking requirements could not be met. In order for the Farmers Market to operate smoothly without risk of having to "take time off" or delay their start date, it would be best to insure that the submitted site plan would not be in violation of any other rules or regulations in effect for the town.

Please note that there are statutory timeframes that must be adhered to once a site plan application is submitted to the Land Use Office. The official date of receipt will be the 3-14-12 meeting. From that date, the Commission has 65 days to reach a decision. Therefore, site plan revisions must be submitted in a timely manner.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rista Malanca".

Rista Malanca, CZEO  
Land Use Administrator

CC: Anita Barden, Farmers Market