

**STAFFORD RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Zoom Video Conference Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

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STAFFORD, CT 2 pag<sup>es</sup>  
2023 JAN -9 AM 8:05

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
TOWN CLERK

**Members:** Chairman - Dave Bachiochi, Secretary - open, Harold Blake Hatch, Tom Topping, Todd Levesque, Richard Deary, Bill Utermarck

**Members Present:** Dave Bachiochi, Todd Levesque, Harold Blake Hatch, Richard Deary

**Members Absent:** Bill Utermarck, Tom Topping

**Recreation Director:** (Open)

**Athletic Director:** Damian Frassinelli (not present)

**Guests Present:** Jose Scarpa, Rich Smith, Matt Martel, Jim Tantillo

- 1.) **Call Meeting to Order** – Dave called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The number of board members present 4 constitutes a quorum (4 of 6). Welcome to the 4 guests present to enrich the discussion.
- 2.) **Review and Accept Minutes from previous meeting** – Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. A **MOTION** to accept the minutes with no noted changes was entered by Dick Deary – Second by Todd Levesque. Vote to accept minutes was unanimous.
- 3.) **Correspondence: letters & emails; visitors & public comment**
  - a. **2023 Meeting Schedule dates & start times** – The modified request to set the calendar for 2023 regular meetings was accepted by the Town Hall. The 2023 calendar of meetings was changed to meet on the first Wednesdays noted below excluding July and August, starting at 7:00pm with the primary meeting forum being remote over Zoom. In-person meetings will be called only when the agenda topics dictate.

**Schedule of Regular Meetings for CY 2023 (1st Wednesday except July and August):**

Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

4.) **Old Business** – None

5.) **New Business:**

- a. **2023-24 Fiscal Budget discussion** – Dave reviewed the proposed budget line items and line-item narratives. He further stressed that he is advocating for a formal Recreation Department that could tackle the overall administration for all our youth sports. This would be very well received by the citizenship and will likely be necessary for our programs to survive in the long run. This shows up as a new line item. The changes reviewed reflect increased costs

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for summer recreation, basketball custodial services and a few other miscellaneous changes. Several adjustments were made to reflect suggestions from the Commission members and guests. On a **MOTION** from Dick Deary, seconded by Blake Hatch the Commission unanimously approved to submit the budget to the Town Hall. FOLLOW UP: The budget was submitted on 1/5/2023.

- b. Major Improvements** – Dave reviewed the Major Improvements Priorities list and modified several items to reflect suggestions from the Commission members and guests. Substantial discussion ensued supporting the positive value a Recreation Director and programs can bring to make Stafford a more attractive place to live. On a **MOTION** by Todd Levesque, seconded by Dick Deary the Commission agreed unanimously to submit the Major Improvements Priorities letter to the First Selectman and other noted Town Hall departments. FOLLOW UP: Dave learned that the Levinthal Run project approved by the Selectman only includes paving on that road and at the middle school parking lot. A separate project for the walking path is awaiting response to an engineering design request that can be used for RFP. FOLLOW UP: Initiatives to establish a more robust recreation structure remains a priority with the Selectman that must be acted upon soon, however action plan remains TBD. FOLLOW UP: The letter was published on 1/5/2023.

- 6. Adjourn – MOTION:** Todd moved to adjourn meeting.  
Second: Dick seconded the motion.  
Vote: The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.  
Next meeting is Wednesday February 1, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dave Bachiochi, Acting Recording Secretary

1/6/2023  
Date

Dave Bachiochi  
Signature