

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE HARMON LEONARD YOUTH CENTER, SOUTH MAIN STREET - CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present

Dr. Patrick Duffy, MD, Chairman

Commissioners: Paul Fracasse, Michael O'Donnell, John Perosino, Steve Trifone

Absent

Erin Muttty

Ray Stewart

Fiona Pearson, Council Liaison

Staff: Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent
John Gawlak, Director of Parks and Recreation
Elizabeth Mayne, Program Supervisor
Brendan Moran, Program Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Donlin, 30 Copper Valley Court, Founder and Head Coach of the Cheshire Aviators and Tom Banas, 170 Round Hill Road, Coach were in attendance.

Chris Donlin addressed the Commission regarding an ongoing issue with field usage on behalf of the 100 families in the program, who are taxpayers and pay the required fees. He stated the amount of the fields allowed for the Aviators is not adequate or fair and would like the Commission to address this issue and have a swift resolution.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – February 4, 2026

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2026 with the following corrections:

Page 1, delete Heather Fitzgerald's name under Absent

VOTED The motion passed unanimously by those present

6. PARKS UPDATE - PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Cunningham stated that work is proceeding as normal.

7. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Pearson was not in attendance.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The Chairman received communication and pictures regarding part of the trails not plowed.
- b. A tennis player inquired why all the tennis courts were not lit. Mr. Gawlak spoke to the complainant and invited him to address the Commission at a future meeting.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. The Chairman reported that the Cheshire High School Hockey Team has made the playoffs and invited the members to attend the next game being held in East Haven.
- b. On March 12 the Chairman presented the Barry Sutherlands Award to Brendan Kilpatrick.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bartlem Beats – Review of Bands

Mr. Gawlak reported that there may be 5 concerts this year pending on the sponsorship program funds. Also, working off a Audio Visual State of CT contract that Power Station has, we have agreed to their pricing proposal and need to execute the agreement.

Brendan Moran distributed a Bartlem Beats Sponsorship Packet and asked the members to encourage local business owners to participate. He reported so far this year the sponsorship program has netted \$12,750.00

Brendan made a presentation on the list of bands he compiled.

Mr. Gawlak asked the Commission to make a list of their favorite bands and submit that to him for consideration by the following week in order to meet with Power Station to come up with a concert line up.

Phil Atiyeh, 186 North Rolling Acres, member of Orchard Hill Band, spoke about his band and asked to be considered for the concert series.

Al Vagnini, President, Power Station, addressed the Commission and explained the criteria for selecting a band.

He explained the set up of the stage, the sound system and the use of an outbuilding that will be used to store the equipment needed for audio and lighting. This shed will be located on the side of the stage and will be locked at all times.

Mr. Gawlak distributed a list of the upcoming Spring Events.

- b. Matt Jermin, 30 North Pond Road, Vice President of Cheshire Soccer Club, distributed a copy of "Quinnipiac Park Improvements for Community Engagement" and did a presentation for the proposal. He discussed the community impact, the existing conditions and project goals. He showed and explained the two options and their outcome. He reported that this proposed project would be part of a request for a federal grant.

The members thanked Mr. Jermin for his presentation.

Mr. Gawlak recommended that Mr. Jermin have a meeting with the Town Manager and Mr. Talbot on this proposal for Town Council's approval.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None

12. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Gawlak's full report is attached to the minutes. Red line items are new submissions.

Mr. Moran gave a summary on the basketball program.

Ms. Mayne reported that the pool registration and recreation registration are going well.

Mr. O'Donnell would like to add to the April agenda Kate Glendon, MPH, Director of Health at the Chesprocott Health District.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

VOTED the motion passed unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Izzo".

Angela Izzo