

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, June 3, 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, Erin Mutty, Michael O'Donnell, Ray Stewart

Absent: John Perosino, Steve Trifone
Fiona Pearson, Council Liaison

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

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

Kate Glendon, MPH, Director of Health, Chesprocott Health District and Geno Gagnon, Chief Sanitarian introduced themselves to the Commission members.

They discussed their roles with the Health District as it relates to the testing of the water at the beach. They stated that they test twice a week and report the results to the town of Cheshire. There was discussion about rerouting the pipe. Ms. Mayne enquired about still closing the beach after the rain. Mr. Gagnon responded that should be determined case by case and possibly install an advisory sign such as: "Swim at your own risk". There was discussion about testing more frequently using the town's water treatment plant. Mr. Gawlak will contact the Town Engineer as he oversees the water treatment plant.

Mr. Gawlak inquired about what is required for ice cream trucks and food trucks during the concerts. Mr. Moran listed the possible food truck vendors and Ms. Glendon said those were known to the Health District.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – May 6, 2026

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

MOVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2026

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. Talbot was not in attendance at this time of the meeting.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gawlak shared with the members communication from Mary Ruane who is requesting Lock 12 Pavilion for a May 15, 2027 wedding for 50 guests. The event would be catered and have a DJ. She is proposing a shuttle bus to bring guests in and would get the necessary liquor license. By ordinance up to 50 people would be allowed with a certificate of insurance. Discussion ensued about parking, noise levels and access to Lock 12. The members asked Mr. Gawlak to advise the applicant of a conditional approval with no vehicles allowed on bridge, no shuttle allowed and limited parking.

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

MOVED to table this request until the applicant is notified of the above conditions

VOTED The motion passed unanimously by those present

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman recognized the Cheshire Girls Softball Team and the Girls Lacrosse Team for their SCC title and both teams are now in the CIAC playoffs.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2025 Recreation Person of the Year

The Commission members discussed possible nominations and tabled this item until the July meeting.

b. Park Safety – Narcan Update/Overview – Elizabeth Mayne

The Chairman distributed to the new members a quiz regarding the exact locations of the AEDs at the parks

Ms. Mayne presented a video outline of the American Red Cross Emergency Action Plan.

One part was in case of a motor vehicle accident, emergency, choking and dialing 911.

One section was about offering CPR.

One section was about the use of NARCAN.

She stated that training is available for anyone interested.

There was discussion about safe locations for residents at the pool in case of lighting.

c. E-Bike Concerns at Bartlem Park (Specifically Walking Trails) – Potential Ordinance Creation

Mr. Gawlak stated that he will attend a meeting on June 15 with Public Works, the Police Department, and the Town Manager to discuss a potential ordinance.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Adaptive Field Project Cheshire Park 1

Mr. Gawlak reported that a meeting will place this month to finalize costs

SLR has done test pits at Cheshire Park; they're finalizing design and compiling a menu of probable costs to be sure enough funds are available.

b. Yankee Highlands Project - Update

Mr. Gawlak distributed to members a report and photos to show project progress.

He stated there are 4 work parties and they have made considerable progress. One bridge has successfully been completed.

He informed members that a walk is scheduled for June 18 at 2 pm if anyone would like to join.

c. Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Gawlak reported that all Eagle Scout projects are completed or are in the process.

d. Leashed Dogs in Parks – Ordinance Signage

The members discussed installing signage at each park and upon entering trails

The sign will be: "Per Town Ordinance Section 11-14, dogs must be on a leash and restricted and all times"

12. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOTED the motion passed unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angela Izzo", written in black ink.

Angela Izzo