Town of Bloomfield
Parks and Recreation Committee
Special Meeting Minutes

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

Meeting Details

- **Date:** September 8, 2026
- **Time:** Call to order time 5:03 PM
- **Location:** Alvin and Beatrice Wood Human Services Center, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Attendance

- **Committee Members Present:** Matthew Mace (Assistant Director) Louis Blumenfeld (Chair) Paula Jones (Vice Chair), Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
- **Committee Members Absent:** Shenda James
- **Others Present:** Nick Gabuzda, Environmental Planner, Cori Presutti, Pollinator Pathways Chair Bloomfield

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A. Rockwell Park Update

- **Discussion:** The committee received an update regarding the Rockwell Park site plan. The plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission by a **7–0 vote**. The project is proceeding under the Phase One master plan, and a favorable **8–24 referral** was made to the Town Council. The committee discussed the continued progress of the project and related park improvements.

B. Farmington River Park – Invasive Species Removal

- **Discussion:** The committee reviewed the ongoing invasive species removal project at Farmington River Park. Approximately **50% of the work has been completed**. The project is being supported through funding from the Wild and Scenic Committee. Staff will continue coordinating invoices, volunteer work dates, and project documentation. Paula suggested that the goal is to have the work and associated reporting completed by the **end of calendar year 2026**.

- **Discussion:** Louis informed the committee that he had been out walking in the park and that some of the damaged walkways and bridges have been repaired.

C. Arbor Day Foundation Application

- **Discussion:** The committee was informed that the **Arbor Day Foundation application was submitted on September 4, 2026**. The committee discussed the application and the next steps associated with the funding opportunity.

D. LaSalette Park / Adjacent Development

- **Discussion:** The committee discussed developments affecting LaSalette Park and the adjacent Right Field Hollow/Right Field Village area. Potential improvements include

increasing parking from approximately **two spaces to ten spaces** and installing an information kiosk. The committee also discussed the possible acceptance of approximately **24 acres of open space**, subject to the necessary approvals from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). An existing trail was abandoned because of unstable and erosion-prone conditions.

E. Wilcox Park

- **Submitted the grant on August 28, and expect to hear back by the end of October.**

F. Filley Park

- The Washington Oak was removed from Filley Park because of disease. Nick and Glenn Garrity, Sharon Mann, Ron Pitz, and John Kehoe went to a nursery in Granby to look for a replacement. They are looking at both native and non-native trees. Looking at Japanese Maple because of aesthetics and can grow large with low maintenance requirements. Pin Oaks were also discussed as a native option. There was also a discussion of a town vote on the replacement of the tree that was apparently scrapped.

G. Samuel Wheeler Reed Park – Educational Signage Proposal

- **Discussion:** The committee discussed a proposal from Cori Presutti to install approximately **two to three medium-to-large educational signs** at Samuel Wheeler Reed Park. The signs would provide information about the meadow habitat, sustainable management practices, and local flora and fauna. Pioneer Pathways is involved with the proposal. Additional grant opportunities will be researched, with coordination needed for the design, funding, and installation of the signage.

IV. New Business

- **Action Taken:** A motion was made to add to the agenda under New Business Samuel Wheeler Reed Park.
    - **Motion by:** Paula Jones
    - **Seconded by:** Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
    - **Vote:** Unanimous in favor (**Passed**).
- Action Taken: A Motion was made to support the Samuel Wheeler Reed Park to pursue educational signage about the park.
    - **Motion by:** Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair Paula Jones
    - **Seconded by:** Paula Jones
    - **Vote:** Unanimous in favor (**Passed**).

F. Other Parks - Maplewood Park Project Update

- **Discussion:** The committee received an update on Maplewood Park, including water monitoring, riparian buffer improvements, and tree planting. The committee also discussed wetlands jurisdictional rulings. Michelle applied for a jurisdictional ruling for the plan that Michelle was presenting to the Town. Michelle presented the science part of the project as well as long term vision for the park. WWC then denied the request because of the amount of changes to the water course. Application was rejected by the WCC, and were surprised by the

ruling. So they advised Michelle to reapply for a jurisdictional ruling for the specifically for the stuff involving wetland and water course improvements. Split it into two requests with the water monitoring being one and the improvements being another. She only submitted the first request. Some funding maybe available for tree planting through the Farmington River Water Association.

III. Parks and Recreation Department Report

- **Discussion:** The committee received a general department update covering summer recreation programs, pool operations, camps, pricing, and coordination with Board of Education programs. The committee also discussed summer concerts, sponsorship of the West Indian celebration, summer classes, and upcoming recreational events.
- Upcoming activities discussed included **Trunk or Treat on October 16, 2026**, as well as basketball registration and related participation concerns.

Prior Minutes Approval

- **Action Taken:** A motion was made to approve Parks and Recreation Minutes from Tuesday, June 2, meeting .
    - **Motion by:** Paula Jones
    - **Seconded by:** Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
    - **Vote:** Unanimous in favor (**Passed**).
- **Action Taken:** A motion was made to approve Parks and Recreation Special Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, August 25, meeting.
    - **Motion by:** Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
    - **Seconded by:** Paula Jones
    - **Vote:** Unanimous in favor (**Passed**).

V. Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Motion made to adjourn the meeting.
    - **Motion by:** Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
    - **Seconded by:** Paula Jones
    - **Vote:** Unanimous in favor (**Passed**).
- The special meeting was officially adjourned at **6:30 PM**.