



# MINUTES

## WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 5, 2026

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Town Hall – Parks and Recreation Conference Room  
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

**I. Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Bill Donston called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**II. Roll Call:**

Members Present: Bill Donston, Tadd Johnson, Alan Mickel, Joseph McGrail

Absent: Pat Rinaldi  
Margaret Germain  
Karim Belica  
Herm Desena, Town Council Liaison

Others Present: Michael Ganem, Director of Parks & Recreation, Michael T. Doherty, SLR, Landscape Architect

*Motion by Bill Donston seconded by Al Mickel to move New Business #B up on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.*

**New Business B:**

Tennis and Pickleball Court- Michael Doherty, SLR Certified Project Manager, presented an overview of replacing the tennis courts and building new standalone pickleball courts at Crestbrook Park. A copy of the maps/sketches is attached to the record.

**III. Public Participation:**

Monica Nolan, 84 Crestview Dr, Watertown, was present to learn about and support the tennis and pickleball courts project.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

A. February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

*Motion: Joe McGrail seconded by Alan Mickel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2026. Motion Passed unanimously.*

**V. Correspondence:**

- Letter from Bryce Miller, Eagle Scout Project. Gaga Ball Pit at Unico Field. The commission was impressed by the young man's letter. However, we don't have jurisdiction over Unico Field
- Monthly report from Carrie Godfrey, Recreation Supervisor

**VI. Reports:**

- A. Chairman – Watertown does a great job with their programs. Last fiscal year, there were over 7000 registrations/sign-ups. The chair suggests that inland and wetlands be involved early in the process of replacing courts at Crestbrook Park. The chair listed individual accounts associated with the parks and recreation department that are not in the budget. For example: “park improvement fund.” There was discussion about the John Staver Fund and appropriate uses. Is there a way to leverage this gift with a bond? The chair requested for an explanation from the Town Attorney regarding the enterprise account.
- B. Director – Provided a brief update about parks, facilities, events, and programs
- C. Sub-Committees – Golf. The Sub-Committee would like the player's surcharge to not be used for normal expenses. The floor in the pro-shop will be lifted to reduce the slope at the front doors. New carpeting will be installed on the first floor

**VII. Old Business:**

- A. Policies and Procedures – No update
- B. Cherry Hill Trash & Recycle/Jerico Road – Planning and Zoning files should be reviewed for compliance

**VIII. New Business -**

- A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2026 - None

**XI. Adjournment -**

*Motion: Alan Mickel seconded by Joe McGrail to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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William Donston, Chairman  
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan King, Clerk

