

Town of Wilton Parks and Recreation Commission – Meeting Minutes June 1, 2026

- **Called to order:** 7:03 PM by Mark Dailey
- **Minutes approved** (Brent Pollack motion, Shawn Lescault second, all in favor)
- **Absent:** Ken Bishop
- **Additional Attendees:** Ross MacNeil (Gavin Park), Melissa Baldwin (Just for Fun Sports Co-ed Softball League), Ethan Gunty (Saratoga Wilton Youth Soccer Club)
- **Purpose:** Gather input for **Gavin Park's new Master Plan**, focusing on community needs and future improvements

Public Comment and input from Gavin Park user groups as it relates to new Master Plan development:

Youth Baseball (Shawn Lescault)

- ~450 players, 50 teams; growing program
- Uses Gavin Park for **60–70% of games**
- **Strengths:** Well-maintained fields, strong partnership with Town
- **Needs:**
 - More field space (currently maxed out, especially for ages 8–12)
 - Additional **bathrooms** (distance is an issue)
 - Improved **concession stand** (more permanent structure, possibly shared with soccer)

Softball League (Melissa Baldwin)

- Long-running adult league (20 years), ~38 teams in summer
- **Strengths:** Excellent field maintenance
- **Needs:**
 - Additional field(s) to support growth
 - Potential interest in **turf field**
 - Field fencing improvements
- Parking not a concern for their usage
- Lighting feasibility discussed (under Town Board consideration)

Soccer Club (Ethan Gunty)

- ~640 players across travel and rec
- Uses Gavin Park and additional sites
- **Major concerns:**
 - **Parking shortages**
 - **Bathroom access**

- o Safety issues (children crossing streets)
 - Heavy seasonal use (spring/fall peak)
 - May Day tournament depends on **Vincek Field parking**—loss would impact revenue
 - Interested in **partnering on turf facility development**
-

Major Themes & Issues

- **Parking constraints**, especially for large events and tournaments (May Day Tournament)
 - **Field capacity limitations** (baseball & softball growth)
 - **Bathroom accessibility** across facilities
 - Interest in **turf fields** for multi-use and extended seasons
 - Concern over **loss of Vincek Field parking** (pending Saratoga PLAN use restrictions)
-

Planning Considerations Discussed

- Evaluate **field usage and revenue** to optimize layout (possible field reconfiguration/removal)
 - Explore **alternative parking solutions**:
 - o Nearby land
 - o Middle school or offsite lots
 - o Shuttle services (though costly/liability concerns)
 - Consider **regional partnerships** or alternate venues for tournaments
 - Assess long-term **population growth and future demand**
-

Additional Notes

- Gavin Park is widely praised for **quality maintenance and operations**
 - Summer recreation program is growing (300+ participants), but **limited by staffing capacity**
 - A **community survey** will be distributed to ~6,000 households for input
-

Next Steps

- Compile feedback and public input
- Continue discussions with planning/landscape architecture group
- Reconvene stakeholders to refine recommendations for the Master Plan

Veterans Flag project:

- It is noted that Ken is still reaching out to his contact in Amsterdam that was previously discussed.
- Sara and Brent do not have an update, but Sara is looking into information sheets, and did receive pricing quotes

- Bob mentions the Flag Day event at Dorothy Nolan school and Erinn mentions the flags just implemented at Clifton Park.
- All agree would like to have implementation by next Memorial Day.

Alternative Properties:

- Mark discusses the group looking into other properties and working with Ryan Riper, and with Wendy's work on organizing the properties with details into a concise file.
- The property located off Scout Road is noted, with Anna Laloe suggesting SMBA for creating trails and maintenance.
- Mark outlines other location near Forest Grove, and also Ridgeview.
- The group discusses property potential, working with Ryan, working with SMBA and next steps.

Director's Report:

- Ross gives an overview of tournaments, after school, community Day and Splash Park opening, all going very well.

Northern Pines Project:

- Mark gives an update that the path and parking lot are being worked on.

Other business:

- Recreation survey out soon.
- Parkfest – limited availability of members to attend. Ross to have a table with QR code.
- All in favor of pushing July meeting to be held on Monday, July 13th.

Adjournment at 8:08pm – motion made by Andrea Glogowski with a second from Bob Garrett, all in favor.