Town of Wilton Parks and Recreation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Date: July 13, 2026
Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 PM
Absent: Shawn Lescault, Ken Bishop
Other attendees: Gale McGowan, Ross MacNeil, Erinn Kolligian

Key Discussion Topics

1. Pickleball Courts & Recreation Amenities

- Gale McGowan thanked the Town for the three new pickleball courts at Gavin Park.
- Requests and suggestions included:
    - Court lighting and/or a covered facility.
    - Power washing courts every 2-3 years.
    - Replacing deteriorating windscreens and extending them around all courts.
    - Adding amenities such as a pool, bocce courts, and cornhole areas.
- Discussion included potential bocce court examples and possible future recreational additions.

2. Gavin Park Master Plan

Erinn Kolligian and others provided an update on discussions with the LA Group regarding proposed park improvements:

Proposed Changes

- New 8-foot trail.
- Expansion to approximately 470 parking spaces.
- Centralized restroom and concession facilities.
- Long-term planning for a future turf field.
- Permeable pavement planned for new parking areas.

Key Considerations

- Need approvals from the Town Supervisor, Town Board, and School Board.
- Public input process anticipated in the fall, including notices to affected property owners.
- Parking analysis will be conducted during an upcoming major lacrosse event.
- Additional fields could support future tournaments and park growth.

Top Priorities Identified

1. Parking/paving improvements.
2. School Board approval.
3. Required project approvals.

3. Indoor Recreation Opportunities

- Discussion of a potential indoor soccer facility.

- Meeting planned with the new owners of Wilton Mall to explore available space and parking options.

4. Veterans Flag Recognition Project

Sara Bogardus presented plans for the veterans recognition banner/flag program.

Topics Discussed

- Need to determine whether formal Town approval is required.
- Potential installation locations include Gavin Park and possibly Jones Road.
- Outreach to community organizations such as:
    - VFW
    - American Legion
    - Elks Club
- Development of:
    - Eligibility criteria.
    - Residency verification process.
    - Online registration/sponsorship system.
    - Dedicated email or webpage.
- Estimated banner cost: $150-$250 each.

Next Steps

- Research approval requirements.
- Meet with community groups.
- Include information in the fall newsletter.
- Promote through social media.
- Target a spring launch/reveal.

5. Alternate Property & Trail Development

- Discussion focused on the Scout/Edie Road property as the leading candidate for future recreational development.
- Concepts include:
    - Walking and biking trails.
    - Trail network ("spine trail") design.
    - Parking considerations.
    - Neighbor and Town Board engagement.
- Meeting scheduled with Ryan Riper on July 22.
- Further updates expected at future meetings.

6. Director's Report

Ross MacNeil provided an update:

Survey Results

- Highest resident priorities:
    1. Safe trails.

2. A community pool.

- Pool development is currently not considered feasible.

Program Updates

- Summer camp participation remains strong.
- After-school program registration is open.
- Park Fest was highly successful.
- Halloween-themed magic show being considered for October 9.
- Pickleball courts nearing completion.
- Junior NBA registration opens next month.

7. Facility Maintenance

- Question raised about the blue gym floor.
- Staff noted gym improvements are incorporated into the Town's five-year planning cycle.

8. Northern Pines Project

- Fishing platform and short trail have been completed.
- Future dedication ceremony planned.
- Site has been named in honor of former Town Supervisor **Roy J. McDonald**.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party
Conduct parking count during major lacrosse event	Ross
Obtain approvals for Gavin Park Master Plan	Town Staff / Erinn
Explore lighting options for pickleball courts	Erinn
Determine approval requirements for Veterans Flags project	Erinn
Organize stakeholder meeting for Veterans Flags project	Sara
Create dedicated email/web process for veteran submissions	Sara & Committee
Develop trail concept plan for Scout/Edie Road property	SMBA / Thomas Khairallah
Meet with Ryan Riper regarding alternate property plans	Mark & Committee
Provide trail development updates at next meeting	Committee

Other Business

- Northern Pines improvements completed.
- Next meeting rescheduled from **August 3** to **August 10, 2026**.

Adjournment: Motion by Sara, seconded by Wendy. Approved unanimously.