



# Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

## June 9, 2026



### Those in Attendance:

Commissioners: Brom Bianchi (late) Jim Battaglia Christine Maurice Steve Murphy John Unson  
Director: Dan Hoock  
Town Board Liaison: Chris DiPonzio - not in attendance

The meeting was called to order by Steve Murphy at 3:04 PM.

The minutes from the May 12 meeting were reviewed. No changes were made. A motion was made by Jim Battaglia, and seconded by John Unson, the minutes be accepted as written. The vote was unanimous to accept this document.

Dan Hoock shared the financial report was not available for this meeting. When available, it will be sent out to the Commission.

At this point in the meeting, Steve Murphy presented a sympathy card to John Unson from the Commission in acknowledgment of John's father recent passing. John thanked everyone for their support and caring.

### Unfinished/Old Business:

#### **Memorial Day Event:**

- \* Dan Hoock shared this event went very well, and although the weather could have been better, many were in attendance.
- \* Christine Maurice was thanked for her attendance as she represented the Commission during the rose presentation.
- \* Christine shared the guest speaker was very good, and the vocalist was exceptional.
- \* Dan shared, that due to the wet grass, the GC Band assembled in the street (Buffalo Rd. was closed for this period of time) and their performance was wonderful. Possibly, this configuration could be considered again for next year's event.
- \* The rented audio system worked out well, although people do need to speak directly into the microphone to be heard well.

#### **Ending of Spring Session of Classes:**

- \* Dan Hoock shared that all the classes ended well.
- \* Dan also shared the timeline for the closure of the Town Hall for renovation. The last week of June, the rec. center area of the building will be completely shut down. This includes the entire office area, and open play areas. The Town is renting a trailer for some offices to move too, others will be working out of areas in the Annex. Chris Maurice raised the question about the ongoing senior lunch program being in the Annex? Dan shared that everyone was going to be flexible in where they were stationed to work, and make the best of a challenging situation.
- \* Dan also shared that based on the timeline given to him, it appears that work will not be completed by September in areas such as the large meeting room. As a result, groups that would normally be scheduled to meet there, may have to be flexible, and possibly meet somewhere else.

### New Business:

#### **Status of Parks:**

##### **Memorial Park:**

- \* The new playground is installed and it's placement is close to the new bathrooms and band shell area.
  - a. Christine questioned about the choice of colors on the equipment, but Dan assured her they were the chosen colors.
- \* Christine raised a concern about the additional piles of dirt that are now by the sledding hill. Discussion followed. Dan shared that hopefully during the summer months, the grounds crew will be addressing these piles.
- \* Dan shared he's waiting to hear back from the architect he spoke with related to doing renovations on the current cabin. Jim Battaglia asked if this bid would include a working costs listing. Dan indicated it should. A brief discussion followed.
- \* Dan shared the grass has been cut at Memorial Park, and the reason it had been delayed, was due to the unusual amount of rain we had. The excessive rain made the grounds so soft, the mowers could have gotten stuck.

##### **Lions Park:**

- \* Dan shared that four out of the eight swings had been installed, and the remaining ones would be installed very soon.
- \* The new bathroom is in place, but the plumbing and electrical still has to be completed. That should be done by the end of June.
- \* The outside of the cabin needs to be refreshed and painted, That might become an early fall project.
- \* The consideration of adding pickle ball courts is also under discussion.
- \* John Unson suggested the metal fencing by the parking lot at the entrance, needs painting. Dan will add this to the list.

**Westgate Park:**

- \* Dan shared the park is being utilized every day, and the new playground has attracted many families.
- \* The shaded area over the outside picnic tables seems to be working out very well also.
- \* Dan just finished up teaching a pickle ball course at this park, and it was well received.

**Wegman Road Park:**

- \* Consideration will be given to update the playground area at this park, if grant monies become available. The current playground equipment is approximately 25-years old.

**First Responders Park:**

- \* Dan shared that he has spoken to the Soccer groups that have been using this park related to trash pick-up.
- \* As of this writing, the barrels that are in the pond are still there.

**Summer Camp:**

- \* Camp starts on Monday, July 6.
- \* New staff orientation will take place on June 29, and orientation for all staff is on June 30.
- \* There are only a few open slots for campers at Lions Park, all other campsites are full.

**Farmer's Market:**

- \* This event seems to be going well, and the new location in front of the Public Library makes it far more visible to passing traffic.
- \* The library bathroom facilities (connecting building) are available for use, if needed.

**Summer Celebration Update:**

- \* Dan shared he's met with the police, the school district and all other parties related to the logistics of this event, and all is well.
- \* Approximately 35-groups will be participating in the parade.
- \* The food and artisan vendors are all set and confirmed.
- \* There will be golf carts available for handicapped people only.
- \* Due to new ground work being done around the HS football field, the walkway may be a bit tight, but it's still passable.
- \* Following this event, discussion will take place as to when and where the 2027 Summer Celebration will take place.

**Budget Meeting for 2027 Budget Planning:**

- \* Dan shared the process for planning for the 2027 budget will starting by mid-July. He will be sending out dates to the Commissioners related to this, so their input can be included. Jim Battaglia expressed an interest in attending.

**Miscellaneous Items discussed:**

- \* Brom Bianchi shared he met with the Town Supervisor and the developer of the property on Manitou Rd./Lyll Rd. The proposed paving of the entrance road to First Responders Park will probably happen in early 2027 as part of the negotiations.
- \* Discussion occurred related to the development of properties adjacent to Abbott's Ice Cream/#490 Exit ramp. Extensive discussion took place. This will be Zoning Board consideration.
- \* A brief discussion took place related to undeveloped park land behind the Hinchey House, and many viewpoints were shared on how this property could be utilized better for our community.
- \* Discussion took place concerning Commission meetings over the summer months. A motion was made by Jim Battaglia and seconded by Chris Maurice that we do not meet during the months of July and August, and that we meet again in September. This motion was passed unanimously. Valerie Young will send out updated reports throughout the summer to keep the Commissioners current on activities taking place.
- \* Discussion took place on changing the day of the week that we meet. A decision was made to have each Commissioner send the days of the week that would best for them to meet, whether the second week of the month works for a meeting, and also a preferred starting time, directly Christine Maurice. She will tally up that information and share what the majority decision would be. Please send this information directly to Christine ( [cm Maurice001@gmail.com](mailto:cm Maurice001@gmail.com) ) **no later than July 14, 2026.**

A motion was made by Brom Bianchi and seconded by John Unson, the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01PM. Unless otherwise changed, the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 3PM at the Town Hall (if it's available.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Valerie Young - Commission Secretary