



Town of North Canaan
Recreation Commission
August 18, 2026

Present: Chairperson Lindsay Crane, Tonya Roussis, Justin Ellison, Tracy Allyn, Melissa Pinardi, Tom Bunce, Marlisa Camardi

Chairperson Crane called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Ms. Roussis moved to approve the agenda as read. Ms. Pinardi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Ellison moved to approve the July 21 minutes with the noted corrections of spelling Yard Goats correctly and that Ms. Roussis was present on zoom. Ms. Roussis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Jennifer Crane is looking for the Lawrence Field Sign. Selectman Bunce showed the mockup of the sign which still needs to be ordered. They received a couple quotes and the thought is that the town crew will install it. It is very large at about 10ft. long.

Director Report: Chair Crane read the report into record as Director Bunce could not be in attendance. The pool is closing August 23. Overall, the summer went well. The guards worked well together. There were good numbers all summer. Director Bunce will shut it down next week and start draining it. The rail needs to be replaced either this fall or next spring. There were some drainage issues due to the septic being full. It had been pumped in 2022, so once it is pumped out again, it will be looked at to see if there are issues with it. There is ground water there as well. The hot water heater was not working and the breaker tripped. Mr. Ellison explained that the new handrail is being made and he will get the prices. When it is done it can be installed – there may be a problem if the anchor is damaged. He explained the process of replacing it.

Ms. Pinardi stated that at the pool party she witnessed lifeguards not doing their jobs playing in the pool. They called in an extra guard for the party and they were all getting paid but not doing jobs. She contacted Nikki Blass to try and find out how they handled lifeguard duties at Falls Village Pool. She feels it is necessary to write up responsibilities/duties of the lifeguards. Ms. Allyn stated that she wished Ms. Pinardi had come to the others on the commission before taking the issue outside of the town. There were no senior guards on duty that evening. The guards do have instructions already. A

discussion ensued regarding having head guards again. Ms. Pinardi also wants to make sure we are getting money that we are due. One thing that might help is to have a rainy day on-call system for the guards. Visitor fees are not currently listed on the website and need to be. Ms. Pinardi also stated she was informed at the pool party that the lifeguard situation during swim lessons was not good either.

Fall baseball registrations are open. Expecting to have a major and minor league this year. Fall Softball will be opening. Soccer signups are active. The soccer field is painted. Director Bunce may need help painting it during the season. The plastic shed has been moved to Segalla Field. No other towns are offering older soccer. Ours is open to everyone. There was a discussion regarding needing coaches. There was an initial meeting for basketball. Kindergarten will be at Housy before the others. Region 1 travel is still being worked out.

Treasurer report: Ms. Camardi stated there is \$10808.09 in the account. One expense for July is the sports engine renewal. We collected \$260 for swimming lessons.

Old Business:

Sponsored group events: The Yard Goats events were very good. The last game all tickets sold and was a good day. Mr. Ellison will begin looking into the next round of tickets for UCONN Hockey and men/women's basketball. They will let him know what is available for seats. These are normally more expensive than the Yard Goat tickets. Mr. Ellison suggested that we come up with ideas on how to distribute the information better not just regarding rec, but for other things going on in town as well.

Pool needs new first aid kit and a pair of scissors.

Recreation members to do:

- Soccer field painting and upkeep
- Volleyball court – Ms. Camardi will follow up. Thank you to Green Acres for doing all the work with the sand etc. Extra material was hauled to a clean area at the transfer station. Selectman Bunce said they were considering using some of the leftover to create a beach area near the pond (the pond will be cleaned out this fall). Some can also be used to mix with clay for the fields.
- Soccer balls need to be blown up, jerseys/shirts will need to be ordered and picked up. Details will come after we know how many kids.
- Tennis court backstop still needs painting. Ms. Pinardi volunteered to do it.
- Lining of the basketball courts is going to happen, Mr. Ellison and Mr. Johnson have to coordinate their schedules.

Town newsletter: softball flyer, baseball flyer, soccer, and looking for more coaches. It is due the 25th of each month.

New business

Selectman Bunce came before the commission to discuss possible locations to move the dog park to. A letter from Resident Trooper Bronson was read by Chair Crane into record. Private funding has been given to the town so that no town money would be used. There was a discussion regarding the community field and needing safety. Vinnie Viscarello spoke as head of the adult softball league. He has sponsors who have funded several things for the field if they go back to using that field. He also has volunteers etc. Pros and cons were discussed among the commission.

Selectman Bunce also showed the commission a copy of the expired lease for Segalla Field. The expiration date was 2018 and there is nothing indicating that was ever renewed. A discussion ensued and the decision was made to have Selectman Bunce begin talks with the State on renewing it.

Selectman Bunce thanked Chair Crane for everything she has done. This will be her last meeting on this commission.

New Recreation Commission Chairperson nominations: **Mr. Bunce nominated Justin Ellison to be the new Chairman of the Commission. Ms. Allyn seconded the motion. Mr. Ellison stated he would accept the position and Ms. Allyn will remain Assistant Chair. Motion was carried.**

Chairman Ellison took over the meeting.

The commission explained how someone can become a member of the commission. They need to write a letter of intent to the Selectman's office and they will give the commission the letter who will then vote. Once someone is sworn in at the Town Clerk's office they would be a commission member.

Ms. Roussis moved to adjourn. Mr. Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

Received For Record

8/19/2026 8:54pm

Krystian Segalla
Town Clerk

