

To: All members of the Parks and Recreation Committee:

From: John Wapner and Kevin Weldon:

Regarding: Status of Committee Meetings and Parks and Recreation Agenda:

The Town Board has met twice on-line and have conducted two virtual meetings. We have been using a Google platform. The public has access to these meetings, and we encourage you to watch and listen. There is no provision for public comment, but we encourage you to E-mail Donal Collins or all board members to offer your comments. One of our goals is to keep community members involved in our town government during this time of social distancing.

The board seems and I mean seems to have reached an informal consensus without any resolution that summarizes our deliberation: all committee meetings are on hold until May. As we are all aware this decision is a hope and depends on how well Chatham and every other town does in the daily battle with this terrible disease. The intensity and seriousness of this pandemic has led the board to conclude that the citizenry's health and safety and the Town's fiscal battle ahead need to be the board's primary focus at this time. The board decided that it is best policy to put all other business on the back burner if at all possible. Accordingly, we have suspended regularly scheduled committee meetings.

I appreciate everyone's continued interest in Recreation. Addressing the parks and recreation as a community during the last four years has led to some noticeable progress in Crellin Park and increased awareness of the Parks and Recreation Programs as a vital part of the Chatham Community. Unfortunately, we have to sit on the bench for a while, but I am confident we will move forward again. Thank you for your continued interest.

The attached document brings you up to date with issues that will soon be our committee's focus.

Attached doc

Kevin and I have decided to keep you up to date about all Park and Recreation Issues that remain on the fence. Number one on that list is the Pavilion Project. We were underway with a new design that still gave the town a user-friendly facility when New York State closed down all "non-essential construction". Although we tried initially to look at the directive and find a way to conceptually consider the project "essential" it became clear we were trying to fit a round peg in a square hole. Everyone on the board decided it is "non-essential". Nonetheless there was a silver lining. As anyone can see driving past the park The Town Highway Department had made more than a start in the prep. The only reasonable way to shut the project down is to

move forward and finish the concrete floor and the plumbing and electric pipe that are placed in the floor. This part of the project will be completed ASAP and paid for from the park reserve fund. The town chose to use these funds because the board has not decided what it intends to do about purchase of the 225,000.00 bond it has already made and provides funds for much of the remaining work. The interest on that bond is 23,000 per year. The first yearly payment is due in June: "big bucks for a temporarily listing ship! The board does not know how much it would cost to withdraw from this financial obligation and has had no deliberation about whether doing so makes sense financially. So, we await this next step. Frankly, at this point I am afraid that if we don't go forward once the construction band is lifted, we will not complete any time in the near future. I am concerned that we will have a swimming facility without bathrooms and showers and a day camp housed in a woefully inadequate facility. This gets back to an old problem that the park plan deals with in detail: Parks and Recreation are optional other expenses are connected to mandated services. I will keep you up to date as this issue unfolds.

A second issue is the less extensive construction project at the Skateboard Park. Jay had lined up all kinds of services ready to go this Saturday, but this also had to be placed on hold. However, the funding is not being reviewed. Funds are coming from the Chatham Park Foundation which has been holding \$20,000 for this purpose and organizational work from C.A.R.P. So, once the construction issue is behind us, we can move forward.

It is only early April, but we keep watching the curve and hoping our confinement will not affect Summer camp and Park Day. We can wait along time about Park Day, but Mike feels that by mid-May we will have to decide about summer camp. We will keep our fingers crossed. The C.A.R.P people have raised the concern that with the local economy in a shamble's families will need more tuition aide. They have begun to address the issue.

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