

Maple Farms Park Commission
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
5:30pm Homestead

MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order:** 5:37 PM **Attendance:** Gray, Bitgood, Pianka, White-Palmer
Absent: Addabbo, Lathrop, Carson
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Review Minutes from the January 4, 2023 and February 1, 2023 Meetings:**
MOTION: White-Palmer/**SECONDED:** Bitgood to approve January 4- **PASSED**
TABLED February 1, 2023 due to inadequate attendees from that meeting
4. **Review Applications:** No new applications
5. **Farmers Market:**
 1. Trash 2023- Shed to be built for temporary garbage storage
6. **Pavilion:** Ceiling boards to be painted as soon as possible for installation
7. **Homestead Status:**
 - a) **Vote on Rental Costs for Homestead and Pavilion-** After some discussion the Draft Regulations and Fee Schedule will be revised and sent via email to the members for an email vote/approval. The updated versions will be posted to the town website and the application will be made PDF fillable.
 - b) **Discussion on income analysis for the operational year.** Gray submitted a spreadsheet for budgetary considerations. Current checkbook balance is \$18,567.62
8. **Public Comment:** None
9. **Such Other Business:** The attached letter of resignation from Debra White-Palmer was submitted, and accepted, with regret. Discussion on attendance issues was discussed along with suggestions for new members.
10. **Adjournment:** 6:24 PM

For The Commission,
Glenn S. Pianka
Recording Secretary

March 1, 2023

To the Maples Farm Park commission members,

I would like to thank the commission members for inviting me to serve alongside all of you back in March of 2021. It was a great opportunity to get to know different members of our Bozrah community immediately upon moving here. Although it has been a privilege serving alongside you this letter is to inform you of my decision to resign from the committee.

The management of the rentals of the park for various events and social gatherings and weddings was quite time consuming last year. You may remember that at the end of the year I reported that we had hosted 20 events in 2022. Almost all of those required a site visit with a potential renter, meeting them to collect their application and their fee, getting payments in to Diana at Town Hall and holding on to the security deposit until after the event. Between myself and Miria one of us contacted Deb to be sure the space was clean and stocked in advance, I often had to meet other vendors such as tent companies or porta john companies, I then met each renter on the day of their event, unlocked the door and disarmed the alarm, returned after the event to lock up/alarm the system and inspect for any damages or missing items before returning the security deposits. Each hour I spent volunteering was an hour not spent with clients of my own small business or with my family.

Whenever you volunteer it is with a purpose, mine is always to have an impact on my community in a beneficial way, supporting small businesses and drawing people together. While my expertise was welcomed in helping the town book events, it has become clear that the town doesn't value small business and what they bring to our community. It is because of this misalignment that I find the need to resign. It makes no sense for an event planner to help the town book events and bring in revenue when the town has voted against allowing events to happen at my own commercial property doing the same exact thing. Several of the commission members stood up in support of us in front of the P&Z and for that I wish to thank them.

None of the upcoming events at Maples Farm Park have hired my company as of yet, this could still change but as of today they are all independently planned events. Should any of them choose to hire me I will be more involved in the details; otherwise I will not be meeting with any of them or their vendors. I am happy to explain to whomever will be taking on this responsibility what the events might entail, just let me know who that will be.

Again, it has been my pleasure getting to know all of you and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Debra White

DWP Events, llc 410 Salem Tpke Bozrah, Ct 06334