

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Avon Free Public Library, Community Room, 281 Country Club Road, by Chairman Polhamus. Members present: Mmes: Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber. A quorum was present.

Town staff present: Town Manager Brandon Robertson, Assistant Town Manager Grace Tiezzi, Director of Recreation and Parks Ruth Checko, and Recreation and Parks Program Coordinator Doug Davenport.

II. NEW BUSINESS

23/24-69 Public Meeting to Discuss Recreation & Parks Master Plan

Ryan Chmielewski, Team Leader, CT, and Emily Weckman, Senior Project Landscape Architect, Weston & Sampson, provided a presentation (which is attached and made part of these minutes) and conducted an asset mapping exercise.

III. ADJOURN

The special meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

TOWN OF AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



AVON PUBLIC MEETING #1

Monday, February 5, 2024 @ 6:00pm

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MEETING AGENDA



Introduction

Basic Project Goals & Process

Basic Project Timeline

Master Plan Process

Why Your Participation is Important

Next Steps



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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

INTRODUCTION: WHO WE ARE



Ryan Chmielewski, RLA, CPSI
Team Leader, CT



Emily Weckman, RLA
Senior Project Landscape Architect

Full-Service Firm



124 Years | 800 Employees | Employee Owned

- 86 Professional Engineers
- 11 Professional/Certified Geologists
- 4 Certified Energy Managers
- 11 LEED® Accredited Professionals
- 5 Licensed Site Professionals
- 3 Licensed Construction Supervisors
- 5 Licensed Environmental Professionals
- 11 Registered Landscape Architects
- 5 Registered Architects
- 2 Professional Traffic Operations Engineers
- 6 Registered/Professional Land Surveyors
- 2 Certified Planners
- 1 Professional Transportation Planner
- 2 Asbestos Inspectors / Project Designers
- 1 Professional Hydrologist
- 1 Professional Wetland Scientist
- 1 Geographic Information Systems Professional
- 3 Certified Playground Safety Inspectors
- 2 Certified Floodplain Managers
- 5 Part 107 Pilot Certificates (drone pilot license)
- 3 ISA Certified Arborists
- 10 NICET Technicians



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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

BASIC PROJECT GOALS & PROCESS



- Review and update an **inventory** and **analysis** of specific athletic fields, courts, and indoor recreational facilities.
- Complete a **public outreach** and **needs assessment** process to identify and prioritize indoor/outdoor community needs in the short, medium, and long term
- Develop a **strategic plan** for improving existing facilities and/or constructing new facilities to meet community needs, safety, accessibility, and equity
- Outline a potential **implementation process** to include funding and phasing strategies

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

BASIC PROJECT TIMELINE



Task or Milestone	Description	Dates
1	Project Initiation Facility Inventory, Analysis, Public Outreach Planning	Oct - Dec 2023
2	Public Outreach Online Survey, Stakeholder and Public Meeting #1	Jan - Mar 2024
3	Needs Assessment Data & Trend Analysis	Feb - Apr 2024
4	Public Meeting #2 Present Findings	May 2024
5	Strategic Planning Develop Recommendations/Budgets/Implementation	May - Jul 2024
6	Public Meeting #3 Present Recommendations / Adopt Final Master Plan	Aug - Sep 2024

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

FACILITIES INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

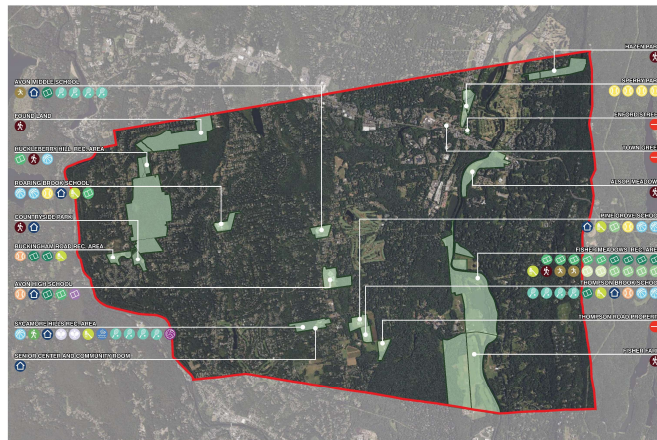


PARKS/TOWN FACILITY LIST

- Alsop Meadows
- Buckingham Road Rec. Area
- Countryside Park
- Enford Street
- Fisher Farm
- Fisher Meadows Rec. Area
- Found Land
- Hazen Park
- Huckleberry Hill Rec. Area
- Sperry Park
- Sycamore Hills Rec. Area
- Thompson Road Property
- Town Green
- Senior Center/ Community Room

EDUCATION FACILITY LIST

- Avon High School
- Avon Middle School
- Pine Grove School
- Roaring Brook School
- Thompson Brook School



19 Sites

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

NEEDS ASSESSMENT - VARIOUS STAKEHOLDER GROUPS



PROGRAM AMBASSADORS

- Adventure Camp
- Art classes, adults and children
- Aquatics
- Avon Land Trust
- Bike Walk Avon
- Buckingham Neighbors
- Central Regional Tourism District
- Farmington Valley Trails Council
- Food Explorers
- Free Public Library
- Historical Society
- Lower Farmington Watershed
- Playhouse 44
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Recreation and Parks Committee
- Summer Fun Camp Director
- Town Council
- Yoga Instructor
- Zumba Instructor
- Zumba Gold Instructor

SPORTS AMBASSADORS

- Adult Men's Basketball
- Avon travel Basketball
- Avon Little League
- Avon Youth Lacrosse
- Avon Soccer Club
- Basketball start up, Facility Attendant
- CT Soccer Network
- Falcon Basketball Camp
- Field Hockey League Coordinator
- Flag Football Coordinator (volunteer)
- JumpBunch
- Little Folks Basketball
- M Power Youth Running
- Pickleball and Badminton
- Rhythmic Gymnastics for Girls
- School Athletics
- SkyHawks
- Soccer Shots
- Volleyball League

TOWN DEPARTMENT AMBASSADORS

- Avon Board of Education
- Engineering
- Planning and Community Development
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Recreation and Parks
- Senior Center
- Town Manager's Office

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

NEEDS ASSESSMENT - PROGRAMS



- 62 Active programs indoors and outdoors excluding school use
- 21 Passive programs indoors and outdoors excluding school use
- 16 Community organizations and town run events that compete for space outside of town and school run programs
- Several active & passive programs unable to fulfill based on availability of space



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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT



- **STAKEHOLDERS ARE UNIQUE**
 - Gifts, talents, skills, knowledge, passion
 - Every stakeholder has their own experience
- **YOUR VOICE MATTERS**
 - We want to hear your experience with R&P
 - Identify what works well, what can be retired, and what is new and upcoming
- **SHAPE THE FUTURE**
 - Your input will help develop a Strategic Plan that meets your needs in the short, medium, and long term
 - Online Survey February 1st to 29th
 - Public Meeting #2: May 1st



Community Informed Master Plan = Success!!!

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

STRENGTH BASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Let's Shape the Future!

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What do you consider the Town's greatest recreation asset?

(An asset are people, things or qualities that are valued by the community)

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What about those assets make the Avon community better?

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**What would strengthen
those assets?**

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**What barriers limit your
participation or access
to those assets?**

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AVON RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

OPEN DISCUSSION



"The Avon Recreation and Parks Department is committed to providing opportunities to participate in recreational programs and have access to parks so that people of all ages and abilities can stay active and enjoy the benefits of a healthier life."



Avon Recreation and Parks Department

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