

MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
January 11, 2022

PRESENT: Chairman J. Schettino, Commissioners R. Stopkoski, J. Mendez, C. Passante, G. Maher and R. Karcich

Absent: M. Sutyla

Also present: R. Potter

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The legal notice was read into the record

J. Schettino explained to the audience this public hearing was scheduled to get public comments, thoughts and feedback as to the future of the skate park. He also wanted to clear up the misinformation that the commission was going to close the skate park, a decision has not been made yet and will not be made tonight.

Letters were read into the record from:

Lori Eadie in favor of keeping the park as it is used often and is good for those not involved in organized sports

DPW Director Todd Hajek reported the following:

- Park is often vandalized
- There is inappropriate graffiti
- Signs are removed
- Cameras disabled
- Trash strewn about and trash cans upended
- Found drug use there

Comments from the public were then taken with the following points made:

- Pickle ball courts are needed in town, all surrounding towns have them
- The skate park is used every day
- It is a healthy outlet for kids
- It keeps kids together
- Wants the skate park to be a safe environment, clean and not vandalized
- The good the skate park does for the kids outweighs the bad issues
- Some of the skaters make minor repairs and pick up the trash
- Great place for kids and families to gather outside
- The skate park adds unique value to Clinton
- Provides kids alternative forms of recreation
- It is used more than the basketball courts, which at this time has a large crack and no lights
- The skate park is an asset to the town
- Along with the skate park, other activities should be found for the youth of Clinton to participate in
- Skaters have a different mentality; they are risk takers and have unique skills as skateboarding is a difficult sport
- People who like to skate are dedicated
- Don't close the park for 6 months at a time, consider keeping it open at least 10 months
- The concrete and metal all look good at this time
- It is the best skate park within a 30-mile radius
- It provides economic revenue, as skaters may frequent coffee shops or restaurants
- The skate park provides the right venue for skating and removes them from utilizing park benches, stair rails, curbs and stairs in public areas which could ultimately be dangerous
- Great for the mind and body, as the sport requires strength, decision making and coordination

- Preventative maintenance should be performed regularly to keep this huge asset in good working order
- The skate park provides a place for kids to go, enjoy and be outdoors
- It is a place to meet others, make new friends and learn amazing tricks
- Those that use the skate park have respect for it and will pitch in to clean it up
- It provides a place for those individuals that do not like to compete in organized sports, but want to challenge themselves
- Consider more surveillance
- The kids should take ownership of the park and clean it up

J. Schettino thanked the residents for participating and being articulate, making good points and being considerate of others.

A motion was made by C. Passante, seconded by G. Maher to close the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott  
Clerk

## Robert Potter

---

**From:** Loretta Eadie <lmeeme@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12:33 AM  
**To:** Robert Potter  
**Subject:** Fwd: Skate park

Forwarded ?

Dear Park & Rec department

I am not able to attend the meeting about the skate park and found out about it too late to mail a letter so I spoke to Kelly who recommended I email .

I am often dropping off or picking up grandkids at Peters for sports and there are always people at the skate park . I dont know where the idea that it isnt used is coming from but it is incorrect. It is also usually kids who dont seem to be involved In organized sports who are either skateboarding or bike riding and even sometimes using RC vehicles there . These people deserve a place to enjoy their sport as much as all the other people in town do.

My Grandson just got a skateboard and was looking forward to being able to go there to do morethan glide down their driveway. He definitely is going to use the skateboard park.

I hope this part of Peters complex remains open

If it needs a cleaning I am sure a facebook post calling for volunteers would accomplish that .

Regards  
Lorie Eadie

Lmeeme@sbcglibal.net  
32 Cedar Island Ave  
Clinton ct

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Potter <rpotter@clintonct.org>  
**Date:** January 10, 2022 at 2:07:30 PM EST  
**To:** Loretta Eadie <lmeeme@icloud.com>  
**Subject: RE: Skate park**

Hi Lorie, Please forward your email to me and I will make sure the P&R commission receives it for their review and discussion. My Best, Bo.

-----Original Message-----

From: Loretta Eadie [mailto:lmeeme@icloud.com]  
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:29 PM  
To: Robert Potter <rpotter@clintonct.org>  
Subject: Skate park



**TOWN OF CLINTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

117 Nod Road  
Clinton, Connecticut 06413  
Phone: (860) 664-1100  
*Todd Hajek, Director*

January 11, 2022

To- Joe Schettino & Bo Potter

Re: Skate park

Joe/Bo,

I just wanted to take this time to address some of the issues we have seen at Skate park over its existence. The facility, while built with good intentions, has been prone to problematic behavior. While this facility has always been maintained by Park and Rec, DPW assists when needed or requested.

1-Vandalism has always been in issue. Fence gates have been ripped off the hinges, and when gates are locked the fence has been ripped open for access. Spray painted slogans of an inappropriate nature have plagued us for years. Park signage has repeatedly been ripped down.

2-Cameras have been disabled repeatedly by cutting cables or throwing objects at them.

3-Garbage is thrown all over facility instead of proper receptacles, Receptacles are constantly dumped over which causes issues.

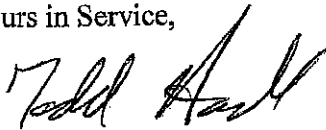
While these issues can be found anywhere, this facility seems prone to them. Of even more concern is the evidence of drug usage. It is not uncommon to find needles and baggies from drugs around. While rare, we have even found human feces within the gated areas. All of which are health hazards no one should be exposed to.

The Department of Public Works is a partner with the Parks and Recreation Department in providing the best facilities we can for the townspeople. It is hard to maintain a facility that is

subject to this abuse. It becomes a constant uphill battle, one of which reflects on the whole complex. We will continue to work together to provide the safest facilities for the residents of Clinton.

As always, feel free to contact me at anytime.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Hajek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".

Todd Hajek

Director

Clinton Dept. of Public Works