



**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PICKLEBALL WORKING GROUP  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2024  
3:30 P.M. DARIEN TOWN HALL, ROOM 119**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jim Farrell, Helen Johnson, Jack Dearie and Bob Marchesi

**ABSENT:** Sarah Kunetz

**STAFF:** Cassie Schull, Recreation Program Supervisor

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order. Intro of committee members and the committees charge to find both short term and long term solution to pickleball in Darien.

Mr. Farrell made a motion to change the meeting schedule to once per month on the second Wednesday of each month @ 3:30pm. Motion was approved by Jack Dearie, second by Helen Johnson.

Mr. Farrell shared possible temporary solutions:

Converting existing tennis court at Cherry Lawn on a temporary basis with lines that are taped down and portable nets.

Converting paddle court at Weed Beach during paddle off season, using paddle tile flooring manufactured and installed by Metaflex. Easy to install, reasonably priced (\$11,000).

Paddle courts are the same size as pickleball courts and have the same net height.

Mr. Marchesi commented that the converting one tennis court at Cherry Lawn makes the most sense. Questioned the use of the tennis courts at CL.

Ms. Schull will provide data on court usage and the towns agreement with the HS tennis team.

Mr. Farrell stated that congestion and parking would need to be addressed.

Cassie stated that P&R is looking into the possibility of moving some summer camp activity to Highland Farms which could potentially alleviate some of the congestion at CL.

Mr. Farrell asked if we should consider reaching out to neighborhood associations with tennis courts, country clubs and other clubs in town to see if they would be interested in converting tennis or paddle courts to pickle ball. Any fees could be shared.

Pickleball activity in surrounding towns in CT.

Mr. Farrell had some data but Ms. Johnson will develop a more comprehensive list.

Mr. Dearie said the existing courts at CL have cracks and will need to be repaired.

Mr. Farrell reminded everyone that the CL pickleball court was built with private funds and not funded by the town. To build a new court would require getting estimates from contractors,

Approval from BOF and neighbor feedback.

Public Comment: Ms. Marks, 39 Fairfield Ave stated that money has already been set aside for traffic study at CL and asked that the town perform this study in the spring vs waiting for the fall. Susan also felt that the towns decision to not line one tennis court at CL was influenced by the HS tennis teams unproven statements regarding FCIA rules and possibly not being allowed to play on dual lined courts.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Farrell, Pickleball Working Group of the Darien Parks and Recreation Commission