

8.A. 25/26-29: Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution - Amendment and Update of Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will, upon completion of a public hearing, review and consider approving Resolution 2026-02 adopting Ordinance #266, amending the current Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance to provide updates, to clarify authority and to remove conflicts.

Purpose: Town Council, in their 2023-25 goals requested that the Town Manager review the charges of Boards, Commissions and Committees to see if there was need for updates and to see if there were overlaps in authority. The review of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance found that there were practices that were outdated and that were in conflict with the Charter and actual operations. The proposed Ordinance clarifies responsibilities and updates the regulations.

History: The current Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance was adopted prior to the current structure of the Town. Today we have a Town Council-Town Manager form of government with professional department heads, including a Parks and Recreation Director. The previous structure involved management of programs and operations by committee. The current Ordinance conflicts with the Charter in the placement of authority and can make completing administration tasks difficult and not timely. Additionally, the current Ordinance did not recognize the need for environmental permits when impacting wetlands, open space and habitat. The Parks and Recreation Commission, during the review process, was concerned that they would no longer be a Commission. Many of the concerns expressed were considered and added to amendments within the draft document throughout the process. This proposed Ordinance preserves this board as a Commission. Parks and Recreation Commissioners remain instrumental in overseeing the planning and development of parks and programs. The Ordinance clarifies what authority is with staff and what remains with the Commission. Town Council voted at the January 20th Town Council meeting to accept the Ordinance and to schedule a public hearing p on February 17th prior to adoption.

Facts about the issue: A public hearing is scheduled at the beginning of the meeting prior to consideration of adoption.

Funding Information: There is no financial impact to this proposed amendment to the Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance.

Steering Committee Recommendation: The Steering Committee, at their December 22, 2025, meeting voted to recommend to Town Council that the proposed Ordinance be adopted.

Town Manager Comments: none.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02, Adopting Ordinance #266, **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 70 "PARKS AND RECREATION"; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**