

Minutes

Town of Easton Safety and Health Committee

September 22, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Easton Library Conference Room

Present: Bernadette Baldino; Althea J. Falco; Martin Ohradan; Terry Calgreen; Bruce Bombero; Suzette Bryan; Chief J. Candee and Captain R. Doyle attended in Officer J. Festa's absence. Kay Oestreicher arrived at 10:40 a.m.

Absent: Gary Simone; Vicki Cram; EMS representative

First Selectman Adam Dunsby attended and Ryan Wells, Senior Risk Management Consultant from CIRMA (replacing Matthew Lipp) and Jacqueline Lazowski, Underwriter from CIRMA (replacing Marion Chamerlain) also attended.

Bernadette Baldino convened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

1. Althea J. Falco moved, Terry Calgreen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Easton Safety and Health Committee Meeting of March 13, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Althea J. Falco moved, Suzette Bryan seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Easton Safety and Health Committee Meeting of April 9, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Terry Calgreen moved, Althea J. Falco seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Easton Safety and Health Committee Meeting of April 25, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Three first injury reports were reviewed by the committee. The first report was filed by the Department of Public Works reporting an employee was injured while carrying a motor up a ladder. The ladder was not properly set and secured. The department will re-enforce safety procedures with employees. The second report was filed by the Department of Public Works reporting an employee was injured while carrying a log, lost his footing and fell backwards with the log landing on his upper body. The department will re-enforce training in this area. Ryan Wells suggested that a "Read and Sign" form be instituted to employees once they have completed the training. It was also noted that if an employee is injured on a job, he or she should not be transported back to his or her department but EMS is to be called. Transporting could worsen the injuries. The third report was filed by the Police Department. An incident occurred involving the Animal Control Officer separating fighting dogs. The only recommendation made was for the employee to be careful in those situations negating the potential of getting bitten. Suzette Bryan also advised that the newly approved forms were not being used by the departments and would send the information and forms again.
5. Parking and traffic concerns were discussed at 660 Morehouse Road. Public Works is working on increasing driveway widths and parking spaces. Work should be completed by year's end.

Follow up and review will be discussed at the next committee meeting. CIRMA inspected the town and school playgrounds and issued a report dated May 28, 2014. A copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes. Gary Simone, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised Ms. Baldino that all recommended repairs and improvements have been made. It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Simone sign and date the report from CIRMA indicating compliance. Workers Compensation costs were briefly discussed. Premium costs are experience rated and predicated on previous losses for three to five years.

6. Bernadette Baldino will speak with First Selectman Dunsby concerning membership of the Safety and Health Committee. Representatives of the EMS and Parks and Recreation Department need to attend meetings. The committee unanimously endorsed the re-election of Bernadette Baldino as Chair. The next scheduled meeting for the Safety and Health Committee will be Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library Conference Room.
7. Terry Calgreen moved to adjourn. Bruce Bombero seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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A. Falco
for the
Easton Safety & Health
Committee



CONNECTICUT INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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June 2, 2014

Mr. Gary Simone
Parks & Recreation Dir.
Town of Easton
Parks & Recreation Dept.
652 Morehouse Road
Easton, CT 06612

RE: Playscape Safety Inspection – May 28, 2014

Dear Mr. Simone:

This letter follows my risk assessment of playscape equipment located at several facilities within the Town of Easton. The objective of this letter is to provide guidance regarding the proactive management of all playscape equipment. More specifically, the following will identify risk factors and provide CIRMA's recommendations in order to mitigate potential injuries on your playscapes.

Conduct regular playscape assessments: Regular assessments of the playground equipment and surfacing materials will assist in identifying potential hazards and prevent property damage and injuries from occurring.

Maintain acceptable surfacing material depths: A universal concern for all playscapes is the need to maintain proper surfacing material depths. The function of surfacing is to reduce the severity of head injuries due to falls. The surfacing under and around playground equipment is one of the most important factors in reducing the likelihood of life-threatening head injuries. Surfacing should be in accordance with ASTM 13.2.1 and 13.2.2 and CPSC Playground Handbook guidelines. Never use less than 9 inches of loose-fill material except for shredded/recycled rubber. During the assessment, all three playscapes demonstrated a need for additional fill, especially at the base of slides, swings and spring rockers (see Exhibit 1).

Repair or remove deteriorated equipment: Swings were found to have S hooks that did not have proper rubber bushing between metal elements. These should be replaced with hooks with proper bushing. There is also a crack in a slide and cracked plastic on the playscape at the Helen Keller Playground. At the Country Day School, there is a set of metal links with disintegrating rubber casing that needs to be replaced (see Exhibit 2). There is also a defective rocker spring and a concrete block at the base of the Geodesic Dome Climber that should be removed (see Exhibits 3 and 4). Finally, there is a set of metal links that either is missing a handle (see Exhibit 5).

Prevent Head Entrapment: Playgrounds should be designed and assembled so that any accessible opening complies with ASTM F-1487 6.1 to reduce the risk of accidental head or neck entrapment by either head first or feet first entry into the opening. Head entrapment hazards were present on the truck climber equipment at the Country Day School (see Exhibit 6). Based on the age and condition of this piece of equipment, the most viable solution may be to remove the equipment.



All Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) inspections and recommendations are purely advisory and intended to assist our members in risk control and safety procedures. The implementation of recommendations made by CIRMA is the sole responsibility of the member. Observations and recommendations of CIRMA are based on practices and conditions observed and information made available to us at the time of our visit, and do not imply or guarantee full compliance with Local, State or Federal regulations that may be applicable to such practices and conditions. These inspections, reports and recommendations do not signify or imply that other hazards do not exist.

Mr. Gary Simone
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Other considerations: The Geodesic Dome Climber in the rear Samuel Staples Playground should be moved to a location that is more contiguous to the other equipment. This will diminish the visual barriers and provide clear sight lines everywhere on the playground to facilitate supervision. Also, the bucket seats in the handicap swing set should be repaired with proper harnesses.

Should you have any questions regarding the information we discussed, or any of these recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 203.215.4158 or MLipp@ccm-ct.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Lipp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Lipp, CSP, ARM
Senior Risk Management Consultant
CIRMA Risk Management Services

c: Hon. Adam Dunsby, First Selectman
Marion Chamberlain, CIRMA Senior Underwriter

Exhibit 1



Exhibit 2



Exhibit 3



Exhibit 4

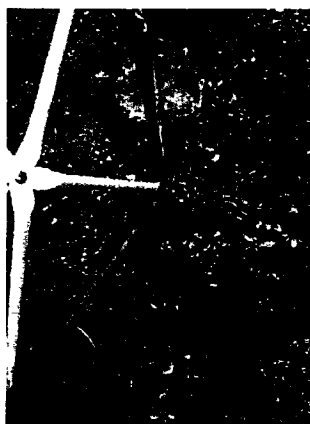


Exhibit 5



Exhibit 6

