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Bristol fundraiser raises money for non-lethal methods to control geese population

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BRISTOL, Conn. (WTNH) – Bristol’s parks and recreation department’s annual Dinner on the Diamond was held Saturday evening and the proceeds will be going to an issue the community is very passionate about: saving the geese.

On the historic Muzzy Field, tables were set for the 3rd annual Dinner on the Diamond. Josh Medeiros, the superintendent of the city’s Parks,

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In April, a public hearing discussing euthanasia drew crowds and passionate pleas.

“Do not kill these geese. It will hurt more than any of us realize,” said one woman.

Now the city’s Board of Park Commissioners is coming up with non-lethal methods to control the geese population.

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“We might put fencing up, we might put buffers which grows the grass around the boulevard, we might invest in more signs to deter people from feeding the geese.” said Medeiros.

The plan the city lands on depends on how much money they raise and what can be accomplished this year. Animal advocates group CT Votes for Animals was one of the sponsors for the night’s event.

“We want to put our money where our mouth is,” said James Lombella with the group. “If we want to support the clean up, support non-lethal methods, come out here and be engaged in the community event, help raise funds.”

The city is aiming to take care of the geese without raising taxes, a major aspect of the project the mayor agrees with.

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“We’ve already spent about \$15,000 on non-lethal methods before so I think it’s kind of cool the community is stepping up,” said Mayor Jeff Caggiano.

Proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle will go to the Friends of Bristol Parks and Recreation Fund. Donations can also be made directly to the Friends of Bristol Parks and Recreation Fund through the Main Street Community Foundation website at www.mainstreetfoundation.org/friends-bristol-parks-and-recreation-fund.

The Board of Park Commissioners is set to discuss geese alternatives at its meeting on Wednesday, May 15.

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