



# SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall  
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

## Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting July 13, 2015

### **Present:**

Fran Frattini-Chairman  
Stan Greenbaum  
Denise DePalma  
Kris Fazzino  
Karen Kellett  
John Wrenn-Director

### **Absent**

William Butts  
Scott Berlinger

**Guests:** Clay Cope, First Selectman  
Greg Migliorisi, resident  
Shawn Fitzgerald, Steve Wilburn, Chris Suttmeier, residents  
Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, Candlewood Lake Authority & Sherman resident  
Larry Marsicano, Executive Director, Candlewood Lake Authority

### **Call to order:**

Chairman Fran Frattini called the July 13, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:26 pm.

### **Minutes from June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting:**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was made by Karen Kellett. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.*

### **Correspondence:**

Fran Frattini described a series of emails regarding concerns about conditions at the town park from Steve Wilburn and Shawn Fitzgerald, residents who live on Saw Mill Road adjacent to the Town Park just beyond the cabin occupied by the Lake Authority. Discussion about each concern followed. Commission members explained the reasoning and history behind each issue. Some possible resolutions were discussed, including:

- creating a designated unloading zone near the playground for picnics;
- signage to indicate that Saw Mill Road is a thru road;
- printing additional information on the beach passes regarding the road and vessel speed limit in the cove;
- extending the hours of the gate guard from noon to perhaps 2:00 or 3:00 PM on the

- weekends and possibly starting this coming weekend;
- drop-off for summer camp will be from the parking lot (parents will be told to park in the lot and walk up to the picnic area).

The pros and cons of each possible resolution were discussed. Larry Marsicano Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority noted that a call to the DEEP dispatch might result in more lake patrols of problem areas. It was clarified that the gate guard monitors traffic and checks passes at the fork in the road between beach area entrance and boat launch. The gate guard does not patrol the parking lot. It was mentioned that perhaps a lifeguard might have time to randomly check on parking lot for problem parkers, especially boat trailers.

There was a discussion about the frequency and possible solutions to illegal boat launches at the town park. It was noted that there seem to be fewer than in the past.

The canoe rack in the south end of the park had been removed by some unknown person as neither Park and Rec. nor the CLA had removed it. There is one canoe that is chained to a tree and there are plans to remove it. Discussion on the Candlewood Lake Authority's use of the park followed noting that the boat without the motor was a donation to the CLA; the aluminum rowboat, PWC's, trailers all belong to the CLA and are all used by them.

Steve Wilburn and Shawn Fitzgerald questioned Mr. Migliorisi's use of dock space. There was a detailed discussion, noting that Mr. Migliorisi was using the south ramp and dock to transport materials during the construction of his dock, as his property is located on Locust Lane and his only access until his home is constructed is by water. It was decided that Mr. Migliorisi will unload at the ramp and park in the lot in the future. Denise DePalma noted that some times the commission granted special permission to residents in the spirit of being neighborly. Mr. Wilburn said he saw the situation as a resident taking advantage of the system. Fran Frattini asked for an estimated completion date for Mr. Migliorisi's use of the park for access to new dock he is building; about 2 months was his estimate and if it would be past October 1 then he would advise the commission for extended permission.

Mrs. Frattini thanked Mr. Wilburn and Mr. Fitzgerald for sharing their concerns and mentioned that they would be welcome as a member of the commission if an opening should become available.

It was noted that the pavilion was due to be power washed and stained and that it should be included in the 2016/2017 budget.

### **Old Business**

1. Fran Frattini summarized the details of the situation concerning the money that was due to John Wrenn from 2 fiscal years ago. Mr. Wrenn received the money due him from the fiscal year 2013-14 budget year in the 2014-15 fiscal year and was taken from the 2014-15 budget which would mean that line item would be short at the close of the year and again Mr. Wrenn would be owed the money, for 2014/15 approximately \$1,200. At a June BOS meeting Mrs. Frattini, Mr. Wrenn and Mr. Greenbaum attended and asked about this, Selectman Andrea O'Connor recapped how the line item had come about during her tenure as First Selectman and after a brief discussion, Selectman Bob Ostrosky concluded that the 2014-2015 Park and Recreation budget ended in the black so Mr. Wrenn could be paid in full and the bookkeeping glitch would not reoccur in the current 2015-2016 budget year, as the Assistant Director line was removed from the budget.

2. Fran Frattini noted that at the last Commission meeting a resident had asked about plaques in recognition of volunteer efforts. It was noted that the commission will address this issue and begin to discuss the details of such an effort, including requirements for inclusion for any tributes that could be both in honor of recognition of service, as well as in memory of an individual who had served the town in the past.
3. The After School Program was discussed. It was noted that at the June BOS meeting the program projection was discussed and it was determined that there will need to be at least 6 children signed up for the program before the next Commission meeting (August 10). The program will be reviewed in December and if it is not self-sustaining by then it may be terminated after the December school vacation. The Sentinel, the PTO and social media will be utilized to advertise the program. The history of attendance numbers was discussed and it was noted that over the years average daily attendance for some months was as high as 30 children or as low as 6, noting that in the early years the number were much higher as the number of children in the school was almost double what it is now.
4. Mrs. Frattini had filed a "Statement of Intent" for the dugouts at Veterans' Field, as this is the first step prior to getting permission from FirstLight Power for the construction. She also filed a "Statement of Intent" for the benches at Volunteer Park that are an Eagle Scout project. She will be meeting with the ZEO this week.
5. Mrs. Frattini emailed and called Brian Wood of FirstLight regarding additional permits needed for the replacement of the dock fingers. The original permit from FirstLight was for 8 fingers, four were installed previously leaving four on the permit with the present bid to replace five an additional permit is needed for the one which makes five. Money for replacing the launch ramp and two additional fingers was approved together with the five fingers in the 2015/2016 budget so now there is money for a total of 12 fingers and the launch ramp so at this time a permit from FLPR is needed for 8 fingers plus the launch ramp. First Selectman Clay Cope said he would get involved if Mrs. Frattini did not hear back from FirstLight soon. Included in the 2016-2017 budget, there will need to be funds for the remaining fingers i.e. three plus the five floating fingers. In the 2017-18 budget funds to do the entire boardwalk will be requested and the condition of the retaining wall will need to be assessed at that time.

**New Business:**

1. Recent vandalism at the park was discussed, including a break-in and damage to the guards shed and theft of some of its contents, including the megaphone, disturbance of the AED, paint thrown around and graffiti in the shed and parking lot. In addition, it appeared that a truck had "done donuts" around the lawn near beach office and the parking lot. Police interviewed a number of teenagers believed to be involved. Mr. Wrenn compiled a list of the damages and will follow up with the trooper.
2. Various security measures at the park were discussed, including motion detectors and camera surveillance.
3. Finger printing of the counselors has been completed and the lifeguards will be next.

4. Mrs. Frattini described the history of when Park and Recreation had its own maintenance worker before maintenance was turned over to Public Works.

5. Parking issues at the park were discussed, also the possibility of selling the abandoned canoes/kayaks after publicizing this in the hopes of locating the owners.

6. Mrs. Frattini, both Camp Directors and Mr. Wrenn met with the town auditor and reviewed the books. Mr. Wrenn will have QuickBooks installed on his computer for program accounting. The After School Program will be kept on a separate computer as in the past.

**Director's Report:**

1. John Wrenn reported that the children in Senior Camp enjoyed the trip to Happy Acres Farm and that it was very well organized and provided a wide variety of farm experiences for the campers. A few parents had objected to having to drive to the farm for drop-off and pick-up. Note that adding a bus would have increased the price of the field trip.

2. The summer program enrollments are:

Senior Camp – 62 (down by about 30 from last year)

Junior Camp – 37 (about the same)

Swim lessons – 31, 26 and 13 so far in session I, II and II

Baseball Camp – 5 so far

Soccer Camp- 4 so far

Mr. Wrenn noted that there are lots of other area camps that compete with Sherman for participants. Fran Frattini complimented Danielle Christie, Junior Camp Director, for her effective use of social media to promote the program.

3. An incident with a child who brought a knife to Senior Camp was discussed. The child was showing the knife to another child and a counselor took it away and gave it to the Director of Senior Camp, who then contacted Mr. Wrenn. Mr. Wrenn spoke with the child's parent and the matter was dealt with.

4. Mr. Wrenn described an incident involving a gate guard and a resident who showed up to launch their boat without a valid beach pass. The gate guard reiterated the need for the valid beach pass before anyone could launch a boat but the resident only had the previous year's pass. The resident told the gate guard they would only be 10 minutes but then proceeded to launch his boat and took off for hours. The gate guard put a ticket on the resident's car noting that next time the car may be towed. The next day the resident came back and spoke to the gate guard. On Monday the resident picked up a beach pass at the Park and Rec. office.

5. Pavilion is rented for every Saturday this season except August 22. All Sundays are available except August 16.

6. The Concert Series includes:

July 19, "Perfect Timing" 2:30 – 5:30

July 25 "Good Time Charlies" at 4:00

August 16 "Don Lowe and the High Plains Drifters" at 3:00

Mr. Wrenn is still waiting to hear back from "Cripple Creek".

7. Mr. Wrenn suggested that for next year splitting pavilion rentals into 2 time slots, perhaps 10 – 3 and 3-8 for rentals. The Commission will discuss this in the off-season.

*With no other business, Kris Fazzino made a motion to adjourn the July 13, 2015 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett  
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix  
Recording Secretary

***These minutes are not considered official  
until they have been approved  
at the next regularly scheduled meeting  
of the Park and Recreation Commission***