



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting January 11, 2016

Present:

Fran Frattini-Chairman
William Butts
John Wrenn-Director
Denise DePalma
Karen Kellett

Absent

Scott Berlinger
Stan Greenbaum
Kris Fazzone

Guests: Ian Langley, Boy Scout, Jack Day, Boy Scout

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:27pm.

Ian Langley's Eagle Scout project was reviewed. It was noted that the scope of his project was to be expanded. It would now include repair of all the benches at Schimpf Pond, instead of repair of just one. Ian will still also build one new bench. All benches will look similar. Fran Frattini will send a letter of approval to Ian and then proceed with filing a Statement of Intent with Ron Cooper. It was noted that a plan might be needed for the new bench.

Jack Day reported that his Eagle Scout project had been completed. He has built 3 benches at the Town Park. Jack noted that a plaque is being made that will say "In Memory of Larry E. Lynch".

Minutes from November 9, 2015 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Denise DePalma. The motion was seconded by William Butts and passed unanimously.

There were no minutes from December 14, 2015 since that meeting had been canceled due to lack of quorum.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini read an email from Devin Turnbull, who would like to volunteer to set up a Culligan

water hydration station at local events, like road races or concerts. There was a discussion. John Wrenn will get in touch with Mr. Turnbull and get more specific information.

It was noted that Eloise Stager might like to do her run this year on June 11.

John Wrenn had received correspondence from a resident requesting the creation of a dog park at Veterans Field in the area between the tennis courts and the lake. There was a discussion, including the history of previous dog park proposals, possible locations, necessary acreage, initial cost, liability and maintenance issues. John Wrenn had invited the resident to come to the meeting and discuss her request. Dog leash problems were discussed.

John Wrenn had received correspondence from John Ehrenreich with concerns about the condition of the tennis courts. There was a discussion including the fact that repairs had been put in the budget, were subsequently cut from the budget but will be put in again. Also discussed was the previously proposed possibility of moving tennis courts to Volunteer Park and making the current courts a dog park.

Facilities Use:

There were no applications for use of facilities. The pavilion is closed for the season.

Old Business:

Fran Frattini noted that there had been a lack of communication related to the cancelled Gingerbread House workshop. Kris Fazzone was not informed that it was cancelled and he opened the Fire House for the event. Denise DePalma apologized and the oversight.

A cooking class for adults titled "Easy and Elegant Appetizers" will be offered one weekday evening in April and will be instructed by Mary Jo Dix. Details will be worked out and publicized as soon as possible.

Fran Frattini noted that the after-school program (ASP) was due for review in December. ASP enrollment was where it needed to be to sustain the program and looked like it would be fine until June. Therefore the after-school program will continue through the end of the school year. A decision about continuing ASP into the 2016-17 school year will be determined at a later date. The program was discussed, noting t present income exceeds expenses.

There was a discussion about town park dock repairs. Fran Frattini gave a detailed report on past and future dock repairs and replacements, including the dock fingers, floating sections, boardwalk and launch ramp. Options for wider boat slips were discussed, as well as the continued use of Trex composite decking instead of wood for longer life for the structures.

The benefits of having the floating section have 4 fingers instead of 5, thereby allowing wider slips for bigger boats, was discussed. This would mean two fewer slips overall but the trend seems to be for a need to accommodate a larger number of wider boats. In addition, for several years all slips had not been rented until very late in the season. Future rate increases were discussed and the discussion was tabled until the 2016-17-budget process begins.

There was a discussion about options for reorganizing the position of Park and Recreation Director as First Selectman Cope has advised the Chairman that the BOS would like to see a fulltime Director. Fran Frattini noted that the Park and Recreation ordinance states that the Park and Recreation Commission should develop proposals on staffing issues and present their proposal to the BOS.

Three options were discussed:

1. Splitting the position into Director and Assistant Director. It was noted that this split was tried in a previous year and ended in confusion with bookkeeping and problems with the Director's salary and therefore was not appealing.
2. Adding a part time Program Director, to work Monday through Friday, organizing and overseeing programs, work from 3:00 – 7:00 with flexibility depending on programs. Summer hours to be determined; salary would be \$17,000. This option could also require including benefits.
3. Full-time Park and Recreation Director. It was noted that Kent, a somewhat comparably sized town, has a full time director with a salary of about \$45,000 plus benefits.

Mrs. Frattini noted that she had asked the First Selectman for both reasoning and direction in writing for that request but had received neither.

A dog leash ordinance was discussed, including a review of a proposed ordinance from Wilton. It was noted that in the past the BOS had asked Park and Recreation to look into complaints about dogs off leashes and to correct it. In 2014, Fran Frattini had collected and sent a packet of sample dog ordinances to BOS and requested help and review from the town's attorney and nothing has come of it.

In November, there had been two written complaints about dogs off leashes and interfering with citizens' recreational activities on town properties. Mr. Wrenn had put a reminder of the rules relating to dogs on town property on the website and an article in the paper as well as contacting the dog warden to be on the lookout for problems. It was noted that without a Local Police Department enforcement is a very big concern.

Denise DePalma reported that the Drumming Circle workshop in the fall was great and well received by the 10 participants. It was a free program run by Dave Wonsey who would like to do it again. It had been promoted on Facebook and by word of mouth. Ms. DePalma will plan another for February or March and contact John Wren with the details so he can advertise it.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Director's Report

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. ASP has taken in about \$12,000.00 in revenue and expenses have been about \$10,500. The program should be very close to the break-even point by the close of the school year, with an average of 8 in November 7 in December and 48 participants on "Game Day". Adding one or more, or even monthly, Game Days was discussed. Behavior issues at ASP were also discussed.

2. Skiing has begun and will continue as long as there is snow.
3. Basketball has 62 participants.
4. The annual Egg Hunt at the town park will be held as usual at noon on Saturday, March 26, the day before Easter. It is a rain or shine event and in case of very inclement weather, the hunt will be held at the school. It was noted that in the past it had been held successfully at the town park with snow on the ground. This year a new costume will need to be purchased, according to Mary Jo Dix, supervisor of the Egg Hunt. The cost will not exceed \$250. The previous costume was over 10 years old and cost \$150.

William Butts made a motion to adjourn the January 11, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

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***