



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting March 14, 2016

Present:

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

Absent

Scott Berlinger
Stan Greenbaum
Kris Fazzino

Guests: Lisa Buzaid, Lisa O'Halloran, Eloise Stager,
Representing the Sherman Softball League: Lauren Lombardo, Alyssa Lombardo, Marisa Shiland, Chloe Jackson, Ariana Jackson, Alexa Buffa, Isabella Buffa, Paul Lombardo, Alicia Shiland, Patty Cowan, John Buffa, Ian Jackson, Robert Johnson, Giana Johnson, Robert F. Cowan, Katie Smith, Amy Smith, Devon O'Dwyer, Brooke O'Dwyer, and Emma O'Dwyer

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Minutes from February 22, 2016 Special Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Special Meeting was made by William Butts. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini had gotten word that Karen Garzia was no longer at the Sentinel and that news should be directed to Jeannie Robbins.

Facilities Use:

Eloise Stager put in a request for use of Veterans Field for June 11 at 11am for a 5K/3K road race called "Jack's Legacy Race", a benefit to raise awareness of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. The 5K portion of the race would start at Veterans Field, go down Sawmill Road, onto the trail at the town park that leads to Colonial Field and then back to Veterans Field the same way. The 3K portion would be the same route but not include the trail. Use of constables and/or volunteers to help with parking and traffic was discussed. John Wrenn will coordinate with baseball teams to

make sure no games are scheduled for the time of this event.

Eloise Stager requested that the trail be checked prior to the race to clear possible obstacles. Ms. Stager will provide a map of the route of the race, as she did last year. It was noted that volunteers would be needed to help with traffic and that overflow parking would be at the Sherman School.

A motion to approve the request by Eloise Stager for use of Veterans Field and the nature trail at the town park that leads to Colonial Field for a June 11 road race was made by Karen Kellett. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Fran Frattini reported on the details of the proposed budget presented at the recent budget hearing. Ms. Frattini described the capital improvements requested, including the on-going dock replacement project. A number of dock sections (“fingers”) have been replaced since 2010, with 9 to date and 4 more planned for this current fiscal year. The 16-17 request is for 4 more fingers and by 18-19-budget year the hope is to have the entire floating section of fingers and floating walkway completed and replaced. There was a discussion about the boardwalk and possible retaining wall repairs or replacement. Which will need to be evaluated around 2020.

Ms. Frattini noted that the bid specs for the 2015-16 budget dock sections are due by April 3 to the Selectman’s office. Ms. Frattini noted that she had received estimates from Mr. Wrenn for tennis court repairs as well as for repairs to the basketball court that included repairs to the fence, although fence repairs weren’t included in the budget. It was noted that it was better to do about \$6,000 worth of repairs to surface of tennis courts now rather than waiting until it becomes a \$40,000 job. There is some minor fence repair that can be taken care of within the present budget.

Guests were invited to speak at this point in the meeting.

Lisa Buzaid and Lisa O’Halloran requested information on the process and timing for boat slip assignments. They noted that they thought it was unfair that a person who had gotten their fee in on time was assigned the same boat slip they had the previous year even if they did not like it while someone who missed the deadline and got the fee in late should have a better slip. Ms. O’Halloran said her boat was in a bad spot and got scrapped by boats in adjacent slips.

John Wrenn explained the process, noting that if at the time of registration someone expressed an interest in changing boat slip locations he can almost always accommodate them. Lisa Buzaid and Lisa O’Halloran requested that this option be printed on the boat dock registration form.

The size of the various slips, the trend toward larger boats being registered and the options for adding larger boat slips during the replacement of some the fingers was discussed. There are 57 total slips and the 49 that are north of the boat launch are being worked on. If the floating section fingers were made to accommodate larger boats then we would lose 1 or 2 slips overall. Boat assignments are made in February and typically sent out the end of April. It was suggested that a box be added to the registration form that states something to the effect “ If you are awarded a slip this year would you like to have the same one you had last year.” This will be discussed and finalized prior to the next Boat Slip Lottery registration in September.

Robert F. Cowan, representing Sherman softball, described concerns his group had about the location of the new Eagle project bench at Volunteer Field. Mr. Cowan noted that the bench was beautiful but was in a potentially dangerous location where a person sitting on the bench could get hit by a foul ball and also the potential of a player running into it during a game. There was discussion about possible solutions and the Commission agreed to work on either getting the bench moved or to get estimates for a erecting a fence in front of the bench.

Mr. Cowan had photos of not only the bench but also of another area of concern, vandalism at Volunteer Field. Someone had run all over the field in a truck and made circular ruts in the field. There was a discussion including previous vandalism, various possibilities for security measures like placement of large boulders at border of field and reasonable access to Volunteer Filed by emergency vehicles. John Wrenn noted that he had contacted public works, who will have to wait until ground is drier and can then York-rake the field. He will also request boulders similar to those at Veterans' Field to prevent vehicles from driving on the fields.

Robert Cowan also stated that a safe area for warm-ups, an on-deck circle, was on the softball group's wish list. Mr. Cowan noted that softball requires a "skinned" infield with 60ft. baselines, that the other fields in town are not appropriate for softball and that the season is from mid-April until the end of the school year. He emphasized the need for clay on Volunteer Field, which he reports has been muddy and moldy during play. Home plate had heaved due to cold and wet weather. Mr. Cowan further noted that the softball wish list included some sort of netting surrounding the perimeter of the field so balls would not get lost in the woods. John Wrenn noted that such netting could cost \$10,000 - \$15,000. The lack of electrical power at Volunteer Field was discussed. Mr. Cowan said he would get a professional electrician's estimate to John Wrenn for electrical work.

John Wrenn asked Mr. Cowan to submit a field use request with specific dates and times for games and practices so that Mr. Wrenn does not schedule another group on Volunteer Field when softball needs it.

Mr. Wrenn noted that he had been asked to get doggie clean-up bag dispensers for both Colonial and Volunteer Fields.

Denise DePalma reported that the Drumming Circle workshop run by Dave Wonsey will be on April 1 from 7:00 – 8:00 at the Sherman School and the fee is \$10 per person. Mr. Wonsey has plenty of drums for everyone.

Fran Frattini noted that she had requested a breakdown of Capital Non-recurring expenditures to date to see if there were unspent funds that could be used in current year toward the boat slips. The breakdown revealed about \$150 available. It was noted that the expenses for boat slip finger replacements of 2009-10 budget year were not available. Boat slip fees were discussed including the possibility of charging by the size of the boat, a lottery for all submissions each year, as well as boat size and speed regulations on Candlewood Lake as stated by the CLA.

Fran Frattini described a series of events related to the process of submitting a statement of intent for the Eagle Scout Project new bench at Schimpf Pond, including Inland Wetlands involvement, sign-offs from Selectmen to waive the fee and the ZEO/IWEO who has to obtain approval authority from the Wetlands Commission.

The need for repairs to the lower part of the fence around the basketball court was discussed. The summer concert series was discussed, including some options for bands and costs. It was noted that it would be good to have the summer concerts listed in the summer brochure but that it was difficult to book a band before the budget is approved and the commission knows how much they can spend.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Director's Report

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. ASP is operating in the black, with an average of 7 children per day. Registration information for next year should go out by May 1 and at least 6 children signed up with deposits paid is necessary for the program to continue next school year.
2. "Movie Under the Stars" program was discussed, possibly for July at Veterans Field.
3. Camp will begin the last week of June.
4. A possible "gap" week of camp may be planned since there will likely be about 2 weeks between the end of school and the official start of camp.
5. The annual Egg Hunt at the town park will be held as usual at noon on Saturday, March 26, the day before Easter.
6. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account report, noting that there was \$2,265 deposited from ASP payments, \$3,183 in ASP salaries paid out, \$53.45 for snacks, \$278 for Easter Eggs, \$134.00 for a Bunny costume and \$153.06 for deposit for Maritime Center for summer trip.
7. Mary Jo Dix's cooking class planned for April is postponed to a date to be determined.

William Butts made a motion to adjourn the March 14, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Kellett and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

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***