



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting May 9, 2016

Present:

Fran Frattini-Chairman
Stan Greenbaum
John Wrenn-Director
Denise DePalma
William Butts
Kris Fazzone

Absent

Scott Berlinger
Karen Kellett

Guests: John Buffa, and his 2 daughters Alvin Tuck

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the May 9, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:22pm.

Minutes from April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was made by Kris Fazzone. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini read an email to the Commission from John Buffa in which he described an incident he was involved in at Volunteer Field on Saturday May 1. Mr. Buffa was the first for a youth league game and was checking out the field for dog droppings prior to his daughters sporting events. His daughters were in his vehicle. An individual was on the field walking with 3 unleashed dogs. One dog ran away from his owner and over to Mr. Buffa and bit him on the hand and then on the arm. Mr. Buffa expressed his deep

concern that this could have been a much more serious event had children been playing on the field.

There was a discussion in which the Commission described their regret that this had happened. It was noted that unfortunately unleashed dogs were not a new problem, that the state does not have a leash law and that the town does not currently have leash ordinance. Options for actions past, present and future were discussed. It was further noted that the Commission has made suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for a leash ordinance in the past.

Also discussed were: more police and dog warden on town fields; submitting another request for an ordinance; exploration of the creation of a dog park; more effective signage on all fields; the possibility of banning unleashed dogs or dogs altogether from town fields. It was noted that some individuals only feel safe walking the Veterans Field track alone if they are with their dogs.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to place new signs on all the town fields that will include the wording “dogs must be on a short leash” and “you must clean up after your dog”. Denise DePalma seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

There was discussion about adding doggie bag dispensers at Volunteer and Colonial Fields.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to review existing Connecticut ordinances for dogs and in no more than 60 days have a recommendation of a Sherman dog ordinance drafted and ready to send to the Board of Selectmen and request a response from the BOS within 60 days of receipt. Denise DePalma seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Stan Greenbaum noted that he would go to the appropriate BOS meeting to present the Commission’s proposed dog ordinance. Fran Frattini will forward the packet of dog ordinances from Connecticut towns and noted that Wilton was the most comparable town in the packet. It was noted that dogs are not allowed on the beach at Town Park.

It noted that another step to be taken over the next 3 months is an investigation into the viability of a dog park, including previous Commission members past research, cost of fencing, other budget ramifications and what other comparable towns offer. It was suggested that residents be invited to next Commission meeting to share their thoughts.

The Commission assured Mr. Buffa that they take this matter seriously and thanked him for presenting his information and insights. Mr. Buffa thanked the Commission and left the meeting.

Fran Frattini noted that she had read an email from Robert Cowan, softball representative, stating that his organization was upset that clay was not put down on the field immediately after Town Meeting approving the purchase. It was noted that the new Sandpro has been received by the town.

Fran Frattini noted that she had received a call from Clay Cope requesting a meeting with her and John Wrenn. They met and Mr. Cope told Mr. Wrenn that he wanted Mr. Wrenn to resign. Mr. Wrenn said that he was not going to comply with that request. At that point Mr. Cope said the meeting was over. Mr. Wrenn added that Mr. Cope had offered him a party and a bonus to resign.

There was a discussion of the Park and Recreation Director's salary line item in the budget, including a review of the bookkeeping error a few years ago that caused Mr. Wrenn to be shorted in his salary which was ultimately paid to Mr. Wrenn. The solution was to delete the Assistant Director line item from the budget and this year Mr. Wrenn should have been paid his entire year's salary by the end of the fiscal year without delay. It had come up at the April BOS meeting about approval of a discretionary payment to the Park and Recreation Director from the Business Administrator. As there was only one salary line for the Park and Rec. Director in the 2015-2016 Budget the Town Treasurer explained this and the BOS approved the payment. It was noted that this was part of the Director's Salary not any discretionary payment – this money had at one time been taken from that line to pay someone should the Director take vacation time and if the director did not then the money was his salary. Last budget year the Commission removed that line and had only one salary line for the Director so it does not understand who arbitrarily changes the line items from the proposed and approved Budget.

There was a discussion concerning the Capital Expenditure Plan of the proposed 2016-2017 Budget that showed expenditures under Park and Recreation for money to replace docks, for tennis court repairs, for basketball court repairs, for playground repairs, and for walkway lighting. Commission members were questioning the playground repairs and the walkway lighting, noting that they had not requested these items in their capital budget. It was suggested that perhaps these items were mistakenly placed in Park and Rec's budget, but maybe are supposed to be in BOE budget and would need to be moved.

Facilities Use:

John Wrenn noted that he had been in contact with Donny Borkowski and still has not gotten an answer about readiness of pavilion bathrooms at Town Park. The services of a plumber may be needed.

There were no new facility requests to discuss. Mr. Wrenn summed up the rentals so far this season, with 5 days in June, and few in July.

Old Business:

There was a discussion about the number of boat slips at the town park and the schedule of replacement for the slips. Fran Frattini noted that replacement of the dock “fingers” began in 2009-10 budget year. Thirteen fingers have been replaced (9) or approved (4) to date and the remainder are scheduled to be replaced over the next 2 budget years. There was a discussion of the history of the dock finger replacement.

Ian Langley’s Eagle Scout project was discussed. The project is proceeding and Ian will be sending a quote to John Wrenn for the materials needed for the project, estimated to be between \$300 and \$600, primarily for the prefabricated metal frame for the new bench.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to approve Ian Langley’s expenditures not to exceed \$600 for materials for his Eagle Scout project. The motion was seconded by Kris Fazzone and passed unanimously.

The revised pavilion use form showing spilt day options has been sent to the website.

Drum Circle was well attended. Access to the school for evening activities was discussed. Mr. Wrenn will look into getting security access key for the Drum Circle events, which will occur fairly regularly on the first Friday of the month, with the exception of June when it will be the second Friday.

New Business:

There was a discussion about the lack of barriers between the town park playground and the beach. Previously some trees and shrubs had created a boundary but they appeared to have been removed. There was a discussion of the safety issues of not having any barrier on the rock ledge. Fran Frattini had a discussion with public works about the installation of a split rail fence and with Clay Cope about using funds to install a fence. Boulders as a barrier to vehicles at Volunteer Park were discussed.

It was noted that Clay Cope had mentioned that the climber at the town park playground was rusting. Fran Frattini noted that it should be done in accordance with the playground safety repair manual that Park and Rec. has. John Wrenn will look into having this taken care of by our seasonal maintenance person.

Camp this year will be held from June 27 through August 5. Also planned is a “pre-camp” week which will be a stand-alone camp like baseball camp. The last day of school being very early in June and its impact on beach opening day was discussed. In addition, most of last year’s lifeguards are not returning and this may be an issue with opening the beach. Denise DePalma described a band she was recommending for the Concert Series, the Wonsey Jazz trio.

Director's Report

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. ASP is doing well, with 6 children per day in March and 9 children per day in April.
2. 40 beach passes were given out on the first Saturday they were available.
3. 20 boaters had already been to pick up assignments for their slips.
4. There was a complaint from one boat slip renter and Mr. Wrenn rearranged things to accommodate them.
5. One kayak had been stolen from the rack; it had been left over the winter. Mr. Wrenn noted that this was the third season in row that a kayak had been stolen from the rack pre-season.
6. It was noted that there are job opportunities for both lifeguards and camp counselors. C.I.T.'s need to be 13 years old by the start of camp.
7. There are still a few plots available in the Community Gardens.
8. Copies of the checking account report were shared with the commission. ASP deposits were listed along with checks written for ASP snacks, a deposit on a Senior Camp field trip as well as ASP salaries

Kris Fazzino made a motion to adjourn the May 9, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

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***