



## SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall  
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

### **Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting July 11, 2016**

#### **Present:**

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

#### **Absent**

Scott Berlinger  
William Butts

**Guests:** Audrey McKay, Estelle Fazzino, Katie Harrison, Charlie Harrison, Sandy Lawton and a few members of the public.

#### **Call to order:**

Chairman Fran Frattini called the July 11, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:23pm.

#### **Minutes from June 6, 2016 Regular Meeting:**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Kris Fazzino. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.*

#### **Correspondence:**

Fran Frattini shared a letter to the editor of the Town Tribune regarding a resident's opinion on regulations concerning dogs in town, including issues with enforcement. John Wrenn read a letter from Art Cummings regarding his opinion on dog regulations. The subject of dog regulations was discussed at length during a later portion of the meeting.

#### **Facilities Use:**

There were no facility use requests discussed.

### **Old Business:**

Fran Frattini read a proposed addition to the Park and Recreation Rules and Regulations under section "All Areas". The original proposed regulation was from March 2008. There was a discussion and input from guests in the audience, including various opinions about the severity and frequency of issues with dogs on Park and Recreation properties as well as suggestions for solutions.

There was further discussion including but not limited to: enforcement of regulations by the dog warden, options for dog owners if dogs were ever banned from properties under Park and Recreation's control; publicity and signage; perceived percentages of dog owners who comply with regulations versus those that do not; safety issues related to dogs both negative, for example dog bites or entanglement in leashes, and positive, for example an individual walking alone on track with dog for security; discussion of several individuals' experiences with dogs/dog owners/dog waste/dog leashes, both positive and negative.

Installation of dog waste bag dispensers as well as garbage bins for convenient disposal on all fields was discussed. There are currently dog waste disposal bag dispensers on Veterans and Colonial Fields. It was noted that consistent refilling of waste disposal bags by Public Works was helpful. The possibility of creating a dog park was discussed, including the dog warden's opinion that dog parks were full of inherent safety problems and liability issues.

Fran Frattini noted some history of the Rules and Regulations as far back as 1980's and the need for an ordinance in order to enforce rules. The dog warden requested a ticketing book from Park and Recreation to be used when enforcing rules and regulations and noted that individuals can submit photographs of offenses for review.

It was noted that there would be a review after one full year with the ordinance in place to see if banning dogs in some or all Park and Recreation controlled properties would need to be explored. With no further discussion:

*Stan Greenbaum made a motion that the following recommendations for modifications to the Ordinance of Park and Recreation Rules and Regulations under section ALL AREAS be sent to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration: "ALL dogs must be held on a leash and under the control of proper handler/responsible person on all Municipal properties under the control of the Park and Recreation Commission of the Town of Sherman, Ct excluding playgrounds and the Town Beach where dogs are **not** permitted. Also owners must clean up after their dogs as well and dispose of the waste properly. Any person who violates this article shall be issued a written warning and for the second offense a fine of \$50.00 for noncompliance. The third and subsequent offenses shall be issued a \$100.00 fine." Denise DePalma seconded. There was a vote: 2 in favor Stan Greenbaum, and Karen Kellett and 2 opposed Denise DePalma and Kris Fazzone the Chairman cast a vote, in favor to break the tie. The motion passed.*

It was noted that the Park and Recreation Department finished the 2015-16 fiscal year under budget.

Fran Frattini updated the Commission on various meetings and interactions she had with Bob Cowan, Clay Cope, Donny Borkowski and Ron Cooper, trying to clarify the ongoing confusion with the order in which requests for action by the town crew were to be made by Park and Recreation. Mrs. Frattini further discussed the sequence of events related to the statement of intent for the dugouts on Veterans Field that began last September, including the need for approval from FERC and permit from First Light. The process of regulations for requesting permits for sand on the Town beach was discussed.

The inconsistencies of postings on the Town website were discussed. Fran Frattini noted that she has been sending the minutes to the required Town officials and agencies and that she is not responsible to post minutes on website. Mrs. Frattini noted that she would add Al Burgasser to the list of recipients of the minutes as it was stated that Mr. Burgasser is the website coordinator.

The funds for the Munch Meadow fencing project was approved during the budget process. It was noted that Bill McCann of the Conservation Commission was asked to speak to the Board of Selectmen and the Public Works Department about installing the fence. There was a discussion about the style and function of the proposed fencing as well as issues related to mowing. It was noted that area between proposed fence and road would need regular mowing but the meadow was to be mowed only twice yearly to maintain meadow's character, consistent with the "Save the View" movement. Mrs. Frattini advised that after advising Mr. McCann, Mr. Wrenn was at the Town Garage and advised Mr. Borkowski and Selectman Lowe was there and it was noted that the fence had not been approved – so some confusion. Mrs. Frattini advised Mr. McCann in an email to check on this.

Fran Frattini noted that everything that Park and Recreation Commission does is with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. It was suggested that the Park and Recreation Commission set up a dedicated meeting with the Board of Selectmen to clarify procedures and policies and appropriate lines of communication. The consensus was that such a meeting was necessary.

Clay Cope's recent letter to John Wrenn requesting his resignation was discussed. The letter in question had also listed 20 items that Mr. Cope stated he or Public Works had handled; items that Mr. Cope felt were Park and Recreation's responsibility. Mr. Wrenn had refuted each of those 20 points and has not heard back from Mr. Cope.

Kris Fazzone and Stan Greenbaum had recently inspected the clean up work done by Mike Carpanzano along the border of his property and Town property and reported that the work had been done adequately. Mr. Carpanzano will be cutting a few more trees on his own property near the border and agreed that if any of the debris lands on town property he will clean it up.

It was noted that weeds have been cut in the swim area at the Town Beach and disposed of properly. It was further noted that there had been a complaint to the First Selectman from a resident about Town Park weeds ending up in front of her house. It was noted that if the Selectman's office gets a complaint about the Town Beach it would be appropriate to refer resident to the Park and Recreation Department or simply "CC" the Department on the email.

### **New Business:**

Tennis court repairs were discussed and it was noted that the \$135,000 in funds for repairs was approved in the budget. It was noted that the First Selectman had requested a committee to work on the tennis courts repair project. There was a discussion. Stan Greenbaum, Kris Fazzino and John Wrenn indicated an interest in serving on such a committee. The First Selectman had asked resident Karen Cushnie to be on the Tennis Court Ad-Hoc-committee as well. It was noted that there was some confusion about the amount allocated being for just two courts or all three. The difference between quotes and bids were discussed, including development of specs from a quote before putting a project out to bid. It was noted that Mary Mallory Patterson Hadlow donated the original courts in memory of her late husband Lee P. Patterson.

Ducks and the waste they leave at the Town Park were discussed, including various options for controlling them. Coyote decoys had been tried but they were stolen the first night after they were installed. Water testing and lake closures were discussed.

There was a discussion about possible exercise classes to be held in the Sherman School gym in the summer or in the evenings during the school year. John Wrenn will check into availability, liability and equipment and report back to the Commission next month.

### **Director's Report**

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. A volunteer has been asked to patrol the Town Park at dusk and remind any visitors that the park closes at 8:00pm. Denise DePalma also volunteered to help in this effort. Another check around 9:00 will be necessary to check on compliance.
2. Basketball court repairs are due to begin on Tuesday July 12. There will be a check of the playground for repair issues, including the walkways where large pieces of vinyl appear to be breaking off. Recommendations for options for repairs will be given to Mr. Wrenn.
3. Weeds have been removed from the swim area and the Town Crew properly disposed of them far away from the lake. The weeds will be continually pulled throughout the summer.

4. The exterior of the beach house, the benches, the picnic tables and the tops of the poles on the playground fence at the Town Park are being painted.
5. A refrigerator has been donated for use at the beach house.
6. Summer Concert Series at the Pavilion is as follows: Dave Wonsey and Friends, Sunday July 31 from 4:00 – 7:00; The Funnels with Don Lowe, Sunday August 14 from 3:00 – 6:00; Good Time Charlies, Saturday September 24 from 2:00 to 5:00.
7. Summer program enrollments to date are as follows; Junior Camp - 23; Senior Camp - 76; Swim lessons - 67; Camp Sampler - 8; Tennis lessons - 15; Baseball Camp - 4; Soccer Camp - 6.
8. Copies of the checking account report were shared with the commission. ASP deposits were listed along with checks written for ASP snacks and salaries, Camp Sampler supplies and snacks, White Memorial for Junior Camp program, Maritime Center and Sky-zone for Senior Camp trips.
9. ASP year-end report was shared. The program did well and ended the year with \$1,658 net profit. The program will continue for the coming school year.

*Denise DePalma made a motion to adjourn the July 11, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Kris Fazzino and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett  
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix  
Recording Secretary

The next scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission is August 8, 2016.

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