



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting September 12, 2016

Present:

Fran Frattini-Chairman
Stan Greenbaum
John Wrenn-Director
Denise DePalma
Kris Fazzone (arrived 7:45pm)
Karen Kellett

Absent

Scott Berlinger
William Butts

Guests: Karen Cushnie, Clay Cope (arrived 7:50 pm)

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the September 12, 2016 regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:31 pm.

Minutes from August 8, 2016 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Denise DePalma. The motion was seconded by Kris Fazzone and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini described a phone call she had received from the Historic District Commission Chairman regarding a bench that had been placed near the Scout House. It will be removed to storage until an appropriate location for the bench at Volunteer Field is determined.

Denise DePalma reported hearing many great comments about the Summer Concert Series. It was noted that there is one more concert in the series. Good Time Charlies will perform at the Town Park pavilion on Saturday, September 24 from 2pm – 6pm.

John Wrenn noted that he had received written information about dog parks from other Connecticut Park and Recreation Directors. Fran Frattini had sent an email to Commission member Scott Berlinger concerning his future status on the commission due to his absence since June 2015; she reported that other than a request for a phone number Mr. Berlinger has not indicated his intentions.

Facilities Use:

1. There was a brief discussion recapping permission that had been given to New Milford Boy Scout Troop to use the town Park lot for parking for a small number of vehicles while the Scouts were camping on Green Island the weekend of September 23-25.
2. There was a request from Pack 84 for the use of the Town Park and pavilion from 3pm on September 16 to 10am on September 17 for a pack meeting and family campout.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to accept Pack 84's request for use of the Town Park and pavilion from 3pm September 16 to 10am September 17 for a meeting and camp out and for the fee for the pavilion to be waived. Karen Kellett seconded. There was a short discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

The tennis court committee, Stan Greenbaum, Karen Cushnie and John Wrenn, had met regarding the tennis court project. They shared their research into the tennis court project including: detailed description of post tensioning technology; a comparison of the two companies, Classic and R&S, who do this process; an engineer's input on the project; removal of present surface versus going over it; the track record of this technology; possible new locations for tennis courts; possibility of re-doing 2 courts if that's all budget would allow; fencing and bench options. Discussion followed.

Clay Cope noted that the budget could potentially be adjusted to reflect the cost to do the entire project at once and go back to a Town meeting with a revised budget request. He further noted that the fencing around the basketball court still needs repairs.

There was a discussion including: various possibilities for moving tennis courts; pros and cons of creating a dog park; possibilities for increasing parking and field space at Colonial Field; possible alternate locations for Community Gardens; for creating a water source at the present location of Community Gardens;

The consensus was to keep the tennis courts in their current location, near the track, the school and outdoor bathrooms as well doing all three courts at one time. There was also a consensus to maintain current location of community Gardens and further investigate getting water to the gardens. Creating a long-range plan was discussed as well as a review of a previously developed 5-year plan that took 12 years to complete most items. It was noted that there needs to be more information gathered before specs can be written for the tennis court project to proceed to the bidding process.

There was a discussion about the possibility of lighting the tennis courts, including getting power to the courts, expense of lighting. Also discussed was the possibility of lighting basketball courts. Solar power was discussed. Fran Frattini gave brief history of lighting and dock expansion at the Town Park noting that residents opposite those areas oppose lighting as it could shine into their homes.

Stan Greenbaum suggested a plan concerning the tennis court project: by the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting on October 3, the tennis court committee will come back with a concrete proposal for specs for replacing 3 courts and keeping existing fence posts, new fencing,

include fabric windscreens on one side, lighting and benches. Clay Cope offered to help craft the bid package and noted that he supports the Commission in its efforts and encouraged them to look at expansion of amenities at Colonial Field in the future but use Veterans as the hub of town recreational activities. It was noted that all three courts should be identical and also that the \$135,000 amount in the budget originated from an old proposal for replacing 2 courts and just coating the third. A goal for the tennis court project is to start it in April or May 2017.

There was a discussion about the actual overall size of the 3-court project including the possibility of making it shorter by 12 feet. It was decided to maintain the current footprint and put any benches inside the fencing. Benches and awnings will be included in the bid specs. Fran Frattini noted that the Commission already had permission from First Light to maintain and/or replace existing facilities and that First Light just needs to be informed that projects are happening.

The stairway leading down from the school to Veterans Field was discussed and it was agreed that a new one was needed. Clay Cope noted that this would be a good project for the Town Crew during the colder months.

It was reiterated that the October Park and Recreation Commission Regular Monthly Meeting will be on Monday, October 3, not the second Monday as usual, due to October 10 Columbus Day holiday.

There was a discussion about the docks at the Town Park, including Public Works and Tucker Docks involvement; needed repairs to some docks that will be done when they are pulled out of the water; an anchor that needs to be replaced on one section; the long range plan of how the docks have been replaced; replacement of the floating section; the plan to create more slips that will hold wider boats; a proposal expected from Tucker on a new configuration of the docks.

Fran Frattini described the budget process over the last several years as relates to the replacement of sections of the docks. Five docks have been replaced; the last six dock fingers attached to the wall are in the 2016-17 budget and need Town approval for the funds; the floating section will be in the 2017-18 budget and configuring larger slips will be included in that part of the plan. The boardwalk and wall will be evaluated and done at a later date. Mrs. Frattini noted that the plan in place matches Clay Copes suggestions. There was further discussion including: getting an estimate for a part of the concrete boat dock at the south ramp that is hazardous and has nails sticking out of it; the SMP regulations requiring all docks that use Styrofoam must have the foam encapsulated; all of Sherman Park and Recreation's docks already have the encapsulated foam.

Fran Frattini noted that the Park and Recreation Commission had requested a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and had not gotten a response. There was a discussion about what the meeting would be about, how it could be arranged and how it would need to be warned or posted. There was further discussion about problems with communication between Park and Recreation, Board of Selectmen and Public Works. Commission members disagreed with the letter that Mr. Cope had sent to John Wrenn listing all the maintenance items Mr. Cope said he had taken care of and that he felt were Mr. Wrenn's responsibility. In the letter Mr. Cope had asked for Mr. Wrenn's resignation; Mr. Wrenn had refused to resign. The Commission cited this letter as part of the larger communication problems they wanted to meet with the BOS to discuss. Mr. Cope noted that he still stood by his letter.

There was discussion including the system for recording and reporting maintenance tasks on Park and Recreation properties, recurring yearly and seasonal tasks for Public Works and the Town Park fencing project. In addition, Clay Cope requested the following items be discussed at the October Park and Recreation Commission meeting; benches along the docks using either budget funds, capital improvement funds or fundraising to defray costs by offering sale of memorial benches; benches along the track; making any benches tasteful and consistent throughout Park and Recreation properties. Fran Frattini described the process of involvement of FERC, First Light, Zoning, Wetlands Commissions and statements of intent in projects on Park and Recreation properties. The playground equipment has been ordered and John Wrenn will follow up with the status of the order.

The proposed dog ordinance that Park and Rec. Commission had sent to BOS in July was discussed. There has been no action on it but Mr. Cope noted it will be discussed at the September 22 BOS meeting. Mrs. Frattini plans to attend. Mr. Cope suggested that the ordinance and other Park and Recreation issues might be taken up all at the same Town Meeting which could occur in December or January.

Clay Cope noted that, in his opinion, there was no need to have a special meeting between Park and Recreation and BOS. He suggested if a maintenance issue came up, people should call him, as he is the supervisor of Public Works.

The letter requesting resignation sent to John Wrenn from Clay Cope was discussed again. Fran Frattini stated that she should have been consulted before the letter was sent Mr. Wrenn as she is also his supervisor. It was further noted that in the commission view many of the tasks listed in the letter were primarily Public Works tasks and not within the scope of the Park and Recreation Director's duties. Mr. Cope again stated he stood by his letter.

Long-range maintenance plan for the shared right-of-way for parking at Colonial Field was discussed. Clay Cope noted he would look into the original deed and see who has what responsibilities. Mr. Cope left the meeting at approximately 9:30.

Bathroom repairs at Veterans Field facility were discussed, including original design flaws, various options for flooring and partitions, choices for materials, and costs. Kris Fazzone will look into options for repairs to bathrooms as well as to the stairs from school to Veterans Field. It was noted that projects of \$10,000 or more have to go to bid. The lengthy process used to hire the Facilities Manager was discussed noting that he is presently only working for the Board of Education his other duties were eliminated by the present BOS

New Business:

1. Meeting time and day of the week was discussed. It was decided that Monday nights at 7:15 were fine for all.
2. Fran Frattini had sent the proposed Park and Recreation section of the Town's Annual Report to everyone on the commission for their review. There was a discussion including adding the Drum Circles to the listing of activities. With no other changes it will be submitted to the Town.
3. Pavilion rental issues were discussed including a monitoring system for the condition

the pavilion is in after an event has concluded. The few problems that have occurred were discussed along with possible solutions.

4. Lifeguard performance was discussed, including personal observations of some Commission members. It was noted that as soon as a problem is witnessed Commission member should approach the guards and follow up with a call to John Wrenn. The field of potential guards and rate of pay was discussed.
5. Options for more regular and thorough cleaning and restocking of bathrooms at the Town Park were discussed.

Director's Report

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. The checking account report was shared with the Commission.
2. ASP has begun and has 3, 4 or 5 participants each day for first few weeks of school with expectations of growth. Program is looking for another counselor.
3. Wrestling will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
4. Karate on Mondays and starts next week.
5. Adult basketball has started and volleyball will be starting soon.
6. Summer camp attendance statistics will be reported next month.

It was noted that the Eagle Scout project to build and install a swinging bench at the Town Park near the pavilion has begun this past week. It will be around the corner from pavilion where one can see the docks. The original choice for placement on the knoll near pavilion proved too difficult due to ledge.

Denise DePalma made a motion to adjourn the September 12, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission is October 3, 2016, 2016.

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