



## SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall  
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

### Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting October 3, 2016

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Scott Berlinger  
William Butts  
Karen Kellett

Guests: There were no guests

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the October 3, 2016 regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:31 pm.

John Wrenn requested a moment of silence I/M/O Senior Camp Director, Rich Sheridan who had passed away recently. Mr. Wrenn noted that there will be a Celebration of Life for Mr. Sheridan at the Sherman Firehouse on Saturday October 22 from 11am – 1pm. There was a discussion, including the contributions Mr. Sheridan had made as Senior Camp Director for the past 6 years.

*Stan Greenbaum made a motion for the Park and Recreation Commission to pay the \$100 cleaning fee for the Firehouse for Mr. Sheridan's memorial. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.*

Minutes from September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting:

*A motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Kris Fazzone. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously.*

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

#### Facilities Use:

John Wrenn noted that the pavilion had been rented for a birthday party on Saturday, October 1. There was a discussion regarding the maintenance needs at the pavilion, including power washing, choices for a protective coating and that this maintenance should be a regular budget item. It was noted that the Eagle Scout project of the swinging bench looks good and that the tree branches in front of it may need to be trimmed. A history of the creation and location of boat docks was given by Fran Frattini. Boat docks should not be located to the south of the swim area due to the potential hazard of oil and gasoline slicks floating into the swim area. It was noted that the State Supreme Court had ruled that municipalities cannot be held liable or negligent for accidents that occur on town properties.

#### Old Business:

1. The proposed dog ordinance was discussed, including that the issue would be going to a town meeting and that such a meeting had not yet been scheduled. The possibility of putting up a "No dogs on playing fields" sign was discussed. It was noted that before the ordinance was passed, such a rule would be not be enforceable. It was noted that if such a sign was installed eventually phone numbers for the dog warden, state trooper and Board of Selectmen should be included on the sign. It was reported that dog feces on town fields was still a problem and a public health concern. There was a review of dog owners wishes, as well a discussion about banning dogs on fields altogether. Park and Recreation plans to give the ordinance one year if it is passed and then review its efficacy and potentially revisit the total dog ban if the ordinance proves ineffective. If it has proven ineffective then a total ban on dogs will be discussed. The creation of a fenced-in pathway around the outside perimeter of a track was discussed as an option for an area for dog owners to walk their dogs.

2. No dogs are allowed on the beach or swim area. Dogs are allowed in the Town Park. Signage was discussed. It was noted that signs should be discussed after the ordinance goes to town meeting. Clay Cope had previously told the commission that there would be a town meeting scheduled in the coming months that was dedicated to only Park and Recreation issues. Park and Recreation will need to buy a ticketing book for the dog warden.

3. The fence at Town Park which is an extension of existing split rail fence by the CLA office has been installed. Fence at Munch Meadows was discussed. It was noted that this fence should be added to the agenda for the town meeting.

4. A possible new location for the Community Gardens was discussed, including improving parking conditions, options for adding a water source for the garden and current gardeners anticipated resistance at the thought of moving the gardens.

5. Items related to proposals for the bathroom remodeling at Veterans Field were discussed, including stalls, ADA non-skid flooring, options for floors, walls, trim and doors, auto-locks, deadbolt on inside, aid alarms, additional lighting, changing table, floor drains, a bench, and exhaust fans. It was noted that all the items should be put into the bidding process. Another proposal was expected by next month.

6. There was a discussion concerning the stairs from Veterans Field parking lot up to the school, including various designs and possible materials and options for railings. A few Commission members will meet at the parking lot and assess the situation and come back to the next meeting with specifications that could be put into a bidding process for replacing the stairs.

7. There was a discussion about benches at the track at Veterans Field and the dock area, as suggested by Clay Cope. Discussion included possible locations for benches, the 440 issue, proximity to stream or wetlands, styles and materials and how the ground would be prepared for the benches. It was suggested that perhaps the simplest maintenance would be for a gravel and mulch base.

8. The E section of the docks had been repaired and the invoice was for \$1,850.00.

9. Dugouts were discussed, including design options, specifically chain link with ashed roof much like area towns utilize.

10. It was noted that the last six docks that are attached to the wall at the Town Park are to be done this year and it will be necessary to go to town meeting for funding. The floating section is to be done in 2017-18 fiscal year.

11. The backboards at Veterans Field basketball courts were discussed and there were varying opinions as to whether or not they needed to be replaced.

12. Use of encapsulated foam on docks was again discussed.

13. Creation of a 5 – 10 year plan was discussed and Fran Frattini offered to put together a worksheet and send to all Commission members for review.

14. The tennis courts were discussed, including information gathered by the tennis court committee. Specifications used by two companies that had given proposals were discussed in detail, including options for foundations, drainage, square footage, surfaces like post stress concrete process versus asphalt with comparisons of costs, durability and expected life span, benches, windscreens and lighting. Also discussed were aspects of the project that might involve First light, town crew, town engineer and third party independent involvement. The tennis committee will meet again and develop another recommendation for asphalt. It was determined that lighting was not necessary.

15. Lighting the basketball courts was discussed. It was noted that if town recreation areas are closed at sunset then it may not be prudent to light one section of the property.

16. The Drumming Circle will continue once a month most likely the first or second Friday.

#### New Business:

1. There was a discussion about a new fence around the basketball courts. John Wrenn will look into prices and options for a heavier duty fencing material as well as replacement of existing grade of fence.

2. Issues surrounding lifeguards were discussed, including availability of experienced guards, water safety instructors and waterfront supervisors, lack of easy access to affordable training for guards, investigating older candidates for the job and increasing wages to make the positions more attractive. It was noted that parent feedback about the current swim instructors has been very positive. The timing and process for increasing the hourly wage for waterfront personnel was discussed, including that the rate isn't known until the budget is approved which can be late in may and the hiring process is best done earlier than that.

3. Yoga class was discussed.

4. "Warm Up America" organization was discussed, including how it is a program for people to get together, each knit or crochet a single square and then join them together into a blanket and then donated them to those in need through the program.

## Director's Report

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. ASP has had 3 participants on average each day. Suggestions for creative ways to boost enrollment were discussed.
2. End of the season water drainage and shut off at the bathrooms at the Town Park pavilion was discussed, including that it was not supposed to be done until after September 30. A November 1 date was discussed as an even more appropriate date for the work to be done due to potential pavilion rentals. Pavilion is open from May 1 – November 1 so that is time frame needed for bathrooms to be operational.
3. Timer locks on Town Park pavilion bathrooms were discussed. The consensus was that timed locks were needed.
4. Wrestling and Karate have started and are doing well.
5. A dead tree at Colonial field was discussed, including the need to address it. Kris Fazzone will contact Clay Cope about it.
6. Swim lessons and Junior Camp had low attendance and did not meet budget expectations. Senior Camp did well.
7. Playground has not been fixed yet but Mr. Wren will check with the contractor.

*Denise DePalma made a motion to adjourn the October 3, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Kris Fazzone and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett  
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix  
Recording Secretary

Note the next Pak and Recreation Commission meeting is November 14, 2016

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