Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the December 12, 2016 regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:22 pm.

Minutes from November 14, 2016 Regular Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting were made by Denise DePalma. The motion was seconded by Karen Kellett and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:
Fran Frattini had received an email from the BOS expressing concern that the ASP program was not doing well. The commission was in agreement that the program was a valuable service the department could and should provide for the community.

At this point Mrs. Frattini invited guests Danielle Christie and Chris Celio to be a part of the discussion that followed. A summary of attendance during the fall for ASP, the after school program, was distributed. Enrollment numbers have been below the 4.5 children per day average that is needed for the program to be self-sustaining. It was noted that last year the Commission
had agreed to have the department subsidize the ASP program up to $100 per month if needed to ensure this valuable program could continue; this has not yet happened. Predictions for the coming months were discussed, including 2 new enrollments starting in December which would bring enrollment to the minimum needed to break even. It was also noted that last year the program ended with a surplus. Various ideas to boost enrollment were discussed including: involving the PTO in advertising; special themed days like a magic show, dodge-ball tournament and hip hop dance, among others; more gym based activities working around Sherman School activities. Community service hours for program helpers as well as coordinating with Sherman library activities were discussed.

Danielle Christie and Christine Celio, supervisors of ASP, shared information about the ASP program, including past years’ theme days that have been successful. For example, a dodge ball day had been held during a recent school year and about 60 children attended. Difficulty securing gym time was reviewed. John Wrenn will meet with Sherman School administrators to discuss gym reservations for ASP. A continuous program of special activities for Fridays, possibly to be called “Fun Fridays”, was discussed. Mrs. Frattini noted that she would attend the Thursday BOS meeting and inform the board about plans for ASP as well as enrollment projections.

The consensus of the Park and Recreation Commission was to continue the ASP and try to implement some of the ideas discussed. The Commission thanked Danielle Christie and Chris Celio for their time and input.

The tennis court project was discussed next with guest Karen Cushnie, who is also a member of the Tennis Court Committee along with Stan Greenbaum. Mr. Greenbaum and Mrs. Cushnie gave the commission a summary of the information they had gathered from various sources regarding the proposed new tennis courts. Their research indicated that the post tension process versus asphalt may be the most appropriate for the area where the current tennis courts are located. The bid process was discussed, including the fact that there are only two companies in the area that do the post tension process.

Stan Greenbaum suggested that the specs be written for the features required but add the phrase “or comparable plan”. Who actually writes the bids was discussed. The fencing repair was discussed including doing it as a separate project from the new courts. Sylvestri Fencing had submitted information to Mr. Greenbaum about tennis court fence repairs, including straightening existing poles and replacing chain link fencing. The projected cost of repairs was $9,800. There was further discussion about subsequently using the old chain link fence from the tennis courts to repair damaged fencing at the basketball court.

Stan Greenbaum will write up the details needed for tennis court project bid specs including the words “or comparable” and give them to Commission. The Commission then submits that information to the BOS who in turn- will direct that information to the appropriate person(s) at Town Hall who will proceed with the bid. Kris Fazzone suggested when writing the bid specs it would be best to note the fact that the fence poles will still be in place when the courts get repaired so whoever wins the bid will have to be able to work around them. Maintenance issues were discussed. It was noted that it would be ideal if bid specs would be advertised within 30 days.
Karen Cushnie noted that a conversation was necessary with Clay Cope to state that the commission has estimates, not bids yet, so that when the bids come in the tennis court project can get on the BOS docket to be taken to a Town meeting with a request for additional/appropriate funding. Windscreens and backboards were discussed. The Commission thanked Karen Cushnie for her time and effort.

Facilities Use:
There were no requests for use of facilities.

Old Business:
1. There was a review of the dog ordinance discussion. It was noted that in July the details of what the Park and Recreation Commission wanted in a dog ordinance were sent to the BOS who had subsequently stated that the issue should go to a town meeting. Nothing has happened with the dog ordinance since then. This will also be discussed with the BOS at their meeting on Thursday.
2. Fran Frattini noted that there had been no progress on the Eagle Scout project to build chairs.
3. Mrs. Frattini also reported that both Stan Greenbaum and Kris Fazzone had been reappointed to the Park and Recreation Commission but that Scott Berlinger had not.
4. Also noted was the fact that the town should be going out to bid for next section of new docks. The money is in the budget to replace the balance of the fingers attached to the wall during this fiscal year. The floating section will be in the next budget proposal (2017/2018)
5. It was noted that Joe Beatty would not be able to quote on the Veterans Filed bathroom repairs. Kris Fazzone will gather more information from different sources for the January meeting. A port-a-pot is being left on Veterans Field for the season.
6. The Town Crew will snow blow the walking track.
7. Mr. Wrenn has called BSN about a new backboard three times and received no call back.
8. The playground at Veterans Field was repaired 10 days prior to this meeting. Clay Cope and Donny Borkowski inspected the work and saw some areas were missed and the company will come back to finish it. It was noted that another canopy at the top of one of the slides was needed.
9. Fran Frattini requested that the Commission take time to look at list of Park and Recreation properties she had distributed at a previous meeting and develop suggestions for capital projects. The subjects of a bathroom with composting toilet on Volunteer Field, timed locks on all bathroom facilities and a maintenance person were discussed and will be revisited when budget is discussed.

New Business:
There was no new business.

Director’s Report:
John Wrenn shared the following:

1. The checking account report was distributed showing deposits for ASP as well as checks written for ASP salaries.
2. The deadline for payment of boat slip registration was Dec. 2. Eight people who submitted initial registration forms in September had not paid on time however John
Wrenn called and emailed each one of them. Seven of those eight responded; one still has not. Of the seven that responded, four have paid and three had decided they did not want the slip after all. To date there are 49 paid boat slips reserved and 8 slots are still available.

3. Basketball began on Saturday, December 10 with 27 participants. The number is low but registration is ongoing.

4. Skiing at Thunder Ridge flyers are going out to newspapers soon and the program starts in January. Families are instructed to call the Thunder Ridge ski slope directly to register and they will receive a Sherman discount.

5. The Drum Circle information is to be announced at a later date.

Denise DePalma made a motion to adjourn the December 12, 2016 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

Note the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is January 9, 2017

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