Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 10, 2018

Present:
Fran Frattini-Chairman
Kris Fazzone
T.J. Fazzone
John Wrenn-Director
Denise DePalma
Stan Greenbaum

Absent:
William Butts
Karen Kellett

Guests: Kevin McAvoy

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:23pm.

Minutes from August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2018 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Denise DePalma, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:
Kevin McAvoy presented a suggestion that the Commission create rental space for rowboats at the town park kayak rack. There was a discussion. The Commission decided on a plan to create a rack that would be suitable for 2 rowboats and if there was greater demand in the future they would consider expanding the number of spaces. Stan Greenbaum volunteered to build the rack and Park and Recreation will pay for the materials. It was noted that this would be ready for use in the 2019 boating season and that there would be advertising to inform the public of this option.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to create at least one rack suitable for 2 rowboats close to the existing kayak rack at the Town Park with the option of
expanding it for additional rowboats in the future. Denise DePalma seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Facilities Use:
1. There was an application from Jo Sutter of the Cub Scouts to change their existing reservation form for use of the Town Park for a Cub Scout Pack 84 campout from September 14-15 to September 21-22 due to the weather forecast. There was a discussion including other reservations for that weekend. Boy Scout Troop 48 has reserved the Town Park for September 21-22. Ms. Sutter noted that the Cub Scouts will be out by 10am on Sept. 22 and that they will need the bathrooms, but not the Pavilion itself.

   T.J Fazzone made a motion to accept the change in the Cub Scouts application for use of the Town Park from September 14-15 to September 21-22 and that fees for the pavilion be waived for the Cub Scout Pack 84 and Boy Scout Troop 48 reservations. Denise DePalma seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

2. John Wrenn will approve Yule Log ceremony at the Town Park scheduled for December 21.
3. Fran Frattini advised that the CLA request last month for use of the pavilion on October 6 has been rescinded and the CLA will be holding the annual Clean-up at New Fairfield Town Park.
4. Boy Scout Troop 158 from New Milford has requested use of the Town Park lot for no more than 4 cars while the troop is camping at Green Island from September 21 to September 23. It was noted that this application would not interfere with either of the other 2 Scouting events scheduled at the Town Park for the same weekend.

   Denise DePalma made a motion to approve Boy Scout Troop 158's application to park up to 4 cars in the Town Park lot from September 21-23. Kris Fazzone seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.
5. There was a note that an application for use of Volunteer Park at the Town Meadows for a Boy Scout Council Klondike Camp-out for January 18 and 19, 2019 will be submitted by Troop 48 after a few items are finalized. Several troops will be camping out. Moving the 2 rented port-a-pots in town to Volunteer Park for the camp-out was discussed. Mr. Wrenn can arrange for this and the Boy Scouts will pay any fees incurred.
6. The annual Pet Memorial on September 9 was discussed. The event seemed to have been well attended and appreciated by participants.

Correspondence:
1. Fran Frattini reported on correspondence that was sent to the CLA after the discussion at the August meeting. The CLA will assist Park and Rec. with the removal of the swim buoys at the Town Park and their storage with the other CLA buoys.
2. Tucker took the swim floats out but the swim ropes and buoys are still in the water. They will be removed soon.
3. T.J. Fazzone brought a concern from a resident about the metal braces that were used to hold the diving board in place that are still attached to the swim float. It seemed that it was a safety hazard. There was a discussion, including the need for a new ladder on one swim float, possible replacement or repair of floats, options for appropriate paint for swim floats and whether or not all 3 floats were actually needed. It was decided that there would need to be further discussion in the 2019-20 budget planning. John Wrenn and Stan Greenbaum will examine the floats soon and bring recommendations to the Commission. Mr. Wrenn will also price new floats for the budget discussion. Mr. Greenbaum had suggested using “Rustoleum 10X” deck paint; it is extremely sturdy and creates a sandy, non-slippery, surface as well as being good for wood and concrete.
4. Kris Fazzone noted that he would recommend that the department not hire back most of the lifeguards from this past summer due to their poor job performance. There was a discussion, including reported incidents of unsatisfactory work by certain guards. There was a suggestion that each Commission member take a turn monitoring the guards’ performance at the beach next summer with dates and names being reported to Mr. Wrenn. Rules, accountability and reporting were discussed, including guidelines for weather conditions and a system for recording the number of people in the water every half hour. It was further noted that a gate guard is still necessary on Labor Day weekend even if the beach is closed. Options for attracting and finding new waterfront staff were discussed, including “Indeed.com”, area schools with swim teams, reimbursement for lifeguard certification class, perhaps using partial reimbursement each year a guard returns as an incentive. Increase in hourly rate was discussed. All of these topics will need to be reviewed during the 2019-20 budget year planning sessions.

**Maintenance and Repairs:**
1. Fran Frattini noted that the source of the leak at the garage at the Town Park has been located by the CLA and will be repaired.
2. Excavation of the swim area at the town Park was discussed, including options for when and how this could be accomplished. It was last done many years ago. The discussion included: the shift in the stream's course, possible digging with an excavator, this winter's scheduled deep draw-down of the lake being the best time for this project, permits needed from First Light and Inlands Wetlands Commission, inclusion of beach and swim area in the project.
   There was a discussion about getting an approximate cost of the project and timing for getting permission from First Light as well as including Don Lowe in the process. It was noted that the Park and Recreation Commission would be asking for funds from the capital non-recurring budget. Kris Fazzone will speak to Don Lowe; Fran Frattini will contact Brian Wood at First Light.
3. It was reported that at the Town Park the broken swings had been replaced and the bench may have been painted.
4. Noise on the lake was discussed. CLA had created a “courteous boating” flyer and Mr. Wrenn had attached them to notes to all boat slip renters. Also they were to be handed out at the boat launch as well.
5. Mr. Wrenn reported that the tennis court company had promised to send him containers of the original blue and green paints used on the courts for touch-up purposes but he has not received anything from them yet. The stain on the courts has mostly faded away now.

Facilities:
1. The rubber covering to the steps at the Veterans Field playground that had been ripped off have not been replaced.
2. Conditions are good at Volunteer Park.
3. At Colonial Field, the town crew has paved the entrance driveway and a “Soccer Parking” sign has been received and will be installed shortly.
4. The water tank at the Community Gardens was discussed. It had been used by many of the gardeners and was filled by the Fire Department approximately once a week. There was report that it had been removed from the site and there was a discussion about the possibility of purchasing a new tank. Mr. Wrenn will look into both these issues.
5. The Town Park is in good condition except for a large branch that came down this past week. It will be removed.

New Business/Old Business:
1. Mrs. Frattini advised that James Day's Eagle Scout project of building a Bocce court has been scrapped for another idea. There was discussion about possible locations for the project, including near practice boards by the basketball courts at Veterans Field, the Town Park by the pavilion or by the old Park and Recreation cottage. It was noted that near the tennis courts was not an appropriate location for the project. James will need to bring the Commission a new proposal.
2. There was a discussion about the possible creation of a multi-use walking path from the library to the Town Park. Possible routes as well as advantages and impediments to those options were discussed.
3. Fran Frattini had sent the Commission a copy of the Park and Recreation portion of the Town's Annual Report. There was a discussion including the fact that the report involved everything that happened from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
4. The Commission was reminded that due to holidays, the October Regular Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 and the following month the meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13. One or both meetings will be held in the Town Hall kitchen.
Director's Report:
John Wrenn shared the following information:
1. The checking account report was distributed.
2. The new ASP Director is Tara Schaeffer. Christine Celio will remain as Assistant Director. ASP is off to a typical slow start with 5 children committed to attendance.
3. Monday night is a children's basketball program run by Bob Ostrorsky.
4. Men's basketball will likely be on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
5. Volleyball will be on Wednesday nights.
6. Wrestling and karate will be held in the Multi-purpose room.
7. There is a concert on September 22 with “Good Time Charlies” at 4:00 at the Town Park pavilion.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to adjourn the September 10, 2018 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission is Tuesday, October 9, 2018

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