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

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

Absent:
William Butts
Karen Kellett
Denise DePalma

Guests:  Bill McCann (Conservation Commission, Chair), Rachel Booth

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the December 10, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
Sherman Boy Scouts had requested use of Volunteer Park and Town Meadows for the Scatacook District Klondike Derby from January 18, 2019 at 3:00pm to January 19, 2019 at 7:00pm. There will be approximately 180 people in attendance and the event will include Troop 48 and 2 troops from New Fairfield. There are no fees charged by Park and Recreation Commission for use of these facilities. There was a discussion, including the need for the Scouts to contact John Wrenn about use of portable toilets at the event.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to approve the request by the Boy Scouts to use Volunteer Park and Town Meadows for the Klondike Derby on January 18, 2019 at 3:00pm through January 19, 2019 at 7:00pm. Kris Fazzone seconded and voted with all in favor.

Minutes from November 13, 2018 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was made by T.J. Fazzone, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted with all in favor.
Public Comment:

Bill McCann of the Conservation Commission shared information about a proposal to combat invasive species of plants at Veterans Field. The effort would be a joint venture with Naromi Land Trust and the town. There was a discussion, including types of weeds that are a problem, permits and permissions needed for such a project, timing, involvement of FirstLight and Inlands/Wetlands Commission, possible buffer garden design, various methods of removing invasive plants, and timing for the project. It was noted that it would be helpful for a member of the Park and Recreation Commission to work with the Conservation Commission on this project. Funding was discussed, as well as educational kiosks, what plants would be taken away and what plants would remain.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to propose that the Park and Recreation Commission work with the Conservation Commission on plans to remove the invasive species of plants from Veterans Field. Kris Fazzone seconded and voted with all in favor.

Bill McCann also shared information with the Commission regarding the American Chestnut Foundation’s efforts to reintroduce the tree after it had been wiped out by Asian virus. The Connecticut chapter of the foundation is looking for towns that can provide 1-2 acres of land for the creation of a “Chestnut Orchard”. Hundreds of seedlings would be planted. Protection from deer is needed as well as help with the planting and watering. Volunteer Park was discussed as a possible site. Mr. McCann may come back to discuss this possibility at some point in the future. It was noted that the orchard is not aesthetically pleasing at first but the goal is to produce a dozen or so healthy trees from the hundred seedlings that would eventually bear fruit (nuts) for future trees.

There was also a discussion about revisiting the topic of installing a split rail fence at Munch Meadows.

Rachel Booth expressed an interest in a possible appointment to the Park and Recreation Commission. There was a discussion, including Ms. Booth’s background as well as the process for becoming a commission member.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Maintenance and Repair:

John Wrenn described vandalism at Volunteer Park and his requests for the damage to be repaired. The damage consisted of ruts in the lawn from someone having done wheelies.

Mr. Wrenn had also asked that Munch Meadows be mowed.

There was a discussion about the need for a system to get Park and Recreation properties maintained on a regular schedule. It was suggested that written detailed requests be submitted and copied to the First Selectman. The position of a Facilities Manager was discussed, including the need for a detailed year round schedule of maintenance and repair tasks accompanied by details of responses to maintenance requests and completion of the
tasks. Variables like weather were discussed, as well as the possibility of quarterly updates from maintenance staff. The need for work on the hillside near Volunteer Field was discussed.

**Facility Report:**

The boat docks are out of the water and secured for the season. The Commission is waiting on Tucker for information on the floating section as relates to the deep draw-down of the lake.

The tennis courts are closed around Thanksgiving and the nets will be removed.

The Town Park and all other Park and Recreation areas are secured for the season.

The bathroom facility at Veterans Field will be closed soon and one porta-pot from Colonial Field will be brought to Veterans Field.

There was discussion of barriers, such as fencing or boulders, at Volunteer Park to prevent vandals from driving onto the fields.

**Old Business/New Business:**

Fran Frattini gave an update on the proposed Eagle Scout project to install a corn hole game at the Town Park. The area being looked at is below the 440. Ms. Frattini has filed a statement of intent with Inlands/Wetlands and Zoning and also has sent a letter to FirstLight outlining the project.

There was a discussion about replacing benches at tennis courts that were removed during tennis court construction. Installing a few benches at the boat docks in the grassy area was discussed. The proposed rowboat rack was discussed, including design and location. Reclaiming the sand at the Town Park beach was discussed. It was noted that Brian Wood from First Light was fine with all of the above projects but thought that the sand reclamation may need to go to Zoning and/or Inlands/Wetlands. All the above mentioned projects are on the same statement go intent application.

Mrs. Frattini reminded Commission that the 2019-20 budget preparation is beginning. She asked that Commissioners bring ideas for needed projects to the January meeting. There was a discussion of possible sidewalks between the library and Colonial Field as well as a multi-use path from Veterans Field to Colonial Field. It was suggested that Donny Borkowski be involved in the budget discussions that involved projects that are beyond regular maintenance.

It was noted that once an Eagle Scout project has been completed the Park and Recreation Commission is responsible for project’s maintenance and repairs.

Other items discussed were trimming trees and replacing netting at edge of soccer field at Colonial Field near the Church.

**Director's Report:**

The checking account report was shared. The process for Park and Recreation to
sign up for use of Sherman School facilities was discussed. The process for the school’s use of Park and Recreation facilities was discussed as well. Options for alternative locations for Park and Recreation office were discussed, including a move to the renovated kindergarten wing at the School.

ASP is doing relatively well with an average of about 5 children per day recently.

Youth basketball has 39 children registered so far.

Twelve children have requested skiing already.

Dorinda Lenihan has proposed starting a ½ hour exercise program in the multi-purpose room starting Saturday, December 15. This free class would be from 9:30am to 10:00am and is designed for participants from age 13 and up.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the Saturday morning 9:30-10:00 free exercise class as proposed by Dorinda Lenihan to be held in the Sherman School’s multi-purpose room starting December 15, 2018. Stan Greenbaum seconded and voted with all in favor.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the December 10, 2018 Sherman Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by T.J. Fazzone and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

r/b/ff

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be Monday, January 14, 2019

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