Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 8, 2019

Present:
Fran Frattini-Chairman
Kris Fazzone
Rachel Booth
T.J. Fazzone
Karen Kellett
John Wrenn-Director (arrived at 8:00pm)

Absent:
Stan Greenbaum
Denise DePalma

Guests: James Day

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:20pm.

Minutes from March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Kris Fazzone, seconded by Rachel Booth and voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
There were no new applications for facilities. There was a reminder that Park and Recreation will use the pavilion and Town Park on April 20 at noon for its annual Egg Hunt and the following day the Congregational Church will hold it's sunrise Easter service.

Correspondence:
There was no correspondence.
**Maintenance and Repairs:**

1. John Wrenn reported that he had received notice from a resident about erosion of the land to the south of the tennis courts on Veterans Field. There was a discussion including the fact that CLA was advised about the erosion as they are planning to access the Saw Mill Brook and will take a look at the area. An assessment will be made at that time which will be shared with Park and Recreation. Various options to stabilize the bank were discussed as well as First Light's eventual involvement in the project.

2. There has been some washout of the swail behind the CLA building at the Town Park. Water is getting into the back of the building and Park and Recreation will need to talk with Public Works about repairing it. It was noted that the inside of the building is CLA's responsibility while the outside maintenance is under Park and Recreation's purview.

**Facilities:**

- a. Boat docks are installed.
- b. Tennis nets are up however the windscreens are not yet in place.
- c. Fran Frattini recently visited Volunteer Field and could see no sign of vandalism. It is possible the reported ruts from “wheelies” had been repaired.
- d. There was a discussion about the previously proposed fence at Volunteer Field, including options for placement.
- e. It was noted that there is a wet area at Volunteer Field that does not drain or dry up so soccer will not use it this spring. Soccer will use upper Veterans Field but not the baseball field area.
- f. Fran Frattini noted that New Fairfield is working on their tennis courts and they had requested use of Sherman's courts for the season. There were no other official requests for the courts during the after school hours so Mr. Wrenn had approved New Fairfield's request. The Sherman School scheduled using the courts on Thursday afternoons, believing the fields and courts were under their control. It was clarified that Park and Recreation is in charge of Veterans Field. Mr. Wrenn noted that there is a simple procedure for requesting use of fields that he will review with the school as well as inquiring about the possibility of accommodating the school's need for the tennis courts on Thursdays.
- g. Fran Frattini reported on the planned boating course on May 10 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm and Saturday May 11 from 8:30am – 12:30pm will need to be held at the Firehouse as the Department's request for the school cafeteria was denied due to a school event. Mr. Wrenn will fill out paperwork for Firehouse use and arrange to get the key for the instructors.

**New Business/Old Business:**

a. James Day reported on the progress of his Eagle Scout project to construct a corn hole game space at the Town Park. He requested Park and Recreation's help with the expense of materials if he isn't able to raise enough to cover total costs. There was a discussion about materials needed, including weed barriers, options for surfaces under the game which will cover a 39' X 27' area and duration of construction. It was noted that Fibar may be preferred over mulch or gravel as a ground cover under the game. The proposed start time is the afternoon of April 20, after the Egg Hunt concludes. It was noted that James Day will need to present the final estimate for materials to John Wrenn who will in turn arrange for payment to the supplier of materials. James will also need to notify Ron Cooper when he has a definite start time for the work. Kris Fazzzone made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to $300.00 for James Day Eagle Scout project materials, seconded by Rachel Booth and voted with all in favor.
b. There was no official news about the 2019-20 budget but it was noted that it seemed like there was only a $100 increase approved for the Concert Series.

c. There was a discussion about the June 10, 2019 meeting needing to be rescheduled to June 17, 2019 due to the planned absence of the Director.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the rescheduling of the June 10, 2019 Regular Park and Recreation Commission meeting to June 17, 2019. Motion was seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor.

Kris Fazzone requested that John Wrenn write a letter to the BOS on behalf of the Firehouse asking the town to fund a boat dock for the Fire Department. The Fire Department needs a larger dock that will accommodate a permanently installed “dock box”. It was estimated that a new dock of the size needed would cost around $10,000 and last about 25 years. It was noted that currently the Fire Department uses one of the Park and Recreation Department rental slips at the Town Park for free. In essence, the Town could be losing approximately $25,000 in rental fees over the next 25 years so in the long run the purchase of the independent dock for the Firehouse makes fiscal sense. There was a discussion and the members agreed.

Mr. Wrenn arrived at 8pm and was caught up on all discussion so far. Mr. Wrenn will order Fibar soon for the playground and James Day’s Eagle Scout project. Mr. Wrenn will also complete the paperwork for the Firehouse rental for the Boating Course May 10 and 11 as well as arrange for the instructors to get key. There was also further discussion about the confusion on the part of the Sherman School about field use. Mr. Wrenn will discuss procedures with the superintendent.

Rachel Booth made a motion to waive the fee for the use of the Pavilion by the Congregational Church for their sunrise Easter service on April 21. Motion was seconded by Karen Kellett and voted with all in favor.

**Director's Report:**

John Wrenn shared the following information:

2. Discussion on construction of the rowboat rack followed and it was noted that it would be done after Stan Greenbaum’s return.
3. Mr. Wrenn had received a request from the SPTO for a donation from Park and Recreation for the “Boots and Bow Ties” fundraiser. There was a discussion and the consensus was that an appropriate donation would be one full summer session of either Junior or Senior Camp. It was noted that field trip costs are not included.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve a donation of one full summer session of either Junior or Senior Camp to the SPTO’s fundraiser “Boots and Bow Ties”. Motion was seconded by Rachel Booth and voted with all in favor.

4. Mr. Wrenn noted that there was a preliminary update on the 2019-20 proposed budget and that the approximately $4,900 approved increase for Park and Recreation included an extra $100 for concert series but was mostly due to increases in salaries for waterfront and camp staff.
5. Self defense class for teens and adults is planned for Saturday, May 11 from 12:30pm – 2:30pm.
6. Early Saturday morning basketball with Bob Ostroski is planned.
7. Football training for 8 and 9 year-olds is planned every Saturday from 10:30am – noon.
8. Kayak rentals begin on Saturday April 13 at 9:00am. The rental fee is $40.
9. Community Garden sign up begins on April 27. Fee is $5.00 per plot.
10. ASP was discussed. The program is losing money but it seems temporary and due to unusual circumstances with enrollment.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the April 8, 2019 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Kellett and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

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