Present:

Fran Frattini-Chairman
Kris Fazzone
Denise DePalma
T.J. Fazzone
Stan Greenbaum
Rachel Booth
Karen Kellett
John Wrenn-Director

Absent:

No one

Guests: Chris Carlone, Jared Bonner, and Dave Febrille

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:17pm.

Minutes from July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2019 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Kris Fazzone, seconded by Denise DePalma and voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:

1. Chris Carlone, Band Director at the Sherman School, described an individual music instruction program proposal he had developed and asked for the Park and Recreation Commission to sponsor the program. There was a
discussion, including location in the Sherman School, timing, fees and methods of registering.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to have Park and Recreation sponsor Chris Carlone’s instrumental music lessons as proposed. The motion was seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted all in favor.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

1. There was a request by Dave Febrille and Jared Bonner for use of Veterans Field for a Town Softball Tournament, Friday September 27 for set-up, Saturday, September 28 for the tournament and Sunday, September 29 for the rain date. There will be music. It was noted that there was no charge for this use of Veterans Field. There was a discussion.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to accept the application for the use of Veterans Field from September 27 through 29 for a Town Softball Tournament. The motion was seconded by Rachel Booth and voted all in favor.

2. There was an application from the Boy Scout Troop 48 requesting use of the Town Park, pavilion and Allen’s Camp for September 28 for their Adventures in Scouting recruiting event. This was a rescheduled event and was previously approved.

Correspondence:

1. Fran Frattini had sent the draft of the Park and Recreation section of the Annual Town Report to each Commission member for review and had subsequently submitted it as written.

2. John Wrenn described a request for a lemonade stand to be set up at the Town Softball Tournament and the eventual denial of that request. It was noted that there has never been any type of fund raising at the tournament but that there might be other events in town where the lemonade stand might be acceptable.

3. Denise DePalma described a complaint from some Community Gardeners about certain pathways at the gardens not being mowed or weed-whacked this season. There was a discussion.

4. There was a discussion about the need for a bike rack at Veterans Field. It was noted that a rack for about 6 bikes would be sufficient and that they were not very expensive.

5. Schimpf Pond dredging was discussed including the history of the pond being created for the purpose of ice-skating and that it is very shallow by design. It was also noted that the benches for Schimpf Pond had been moved and will hopefully be put back by the Town Crew. The benches were the result of a recent Eagle Scout project. It was further noted that Schimpf
Pond is one of the facilities under the supervision of the Park and Recreation Commission and they had not been notified of the dredging.

6. There are some sections of the kayak racks that have 3 kayaks when they are designed to hold only 2.

Maintenance and Repairs:

1. Fran Frattini noted that surveillance cameras at town facilities had been discussed at the recent BOS meeting. It was noted Park and Recreation was in favor of trying them wherever the BOS decided and hoped it would curb vandalism.

2. It was noted that the proposal for a chain link fence around the Little League Field at Volunteer Park had been accepted.

3. A “carry in/carry out” garbage proposal for Veterans and all town parks was discussed. Also discussed were incidences of household garbage being placed in Town Park dumpsters in the past.

4. It was noted that a Town Meeting is on September 14 at 9am and Park and Recreation items will be on the agenda are the fence at Volunteer Park and the surveillance cameras.

5. Kris Fazzone had been called by a lifeguard about a lack of power in the pavilion for a band that was doing a concert and about a leak in the bathroom. Mr. Fazzone was able to attend to the leak and find an alternate power source for the event but noted that the plug in the concession area had failed and perhaps a multiple outlet unit could be installed in its place; if one outlet fails there would be others to use.

Facilities:

a. John Wrenn noted that there were no issues with the boat docks; the tennis windscreens had been installed; the fence for Colonial Field had not yet been installed; the fence at Volunteer Park will be voted on at the September 14th Town meeting.

b. Community Gardeners need to clear out their plots about a week before Thanksgiving.

c. The baseball field at Veterans is still being used by a few teams.

d. The proposed stairs from the school's back parking lot down to Veterans Field was discussed, including ADA compliance issues.

e. Veterans Park playground was in acceptable condition, although the rubber pads on stairs that had been removed were not yet replaced.
New Business/Old Business:
  a. Dog Park Exploratory Committee has not met yet due to the lack of response from the request for participants.
  b. Stan Greenbaum shared updates on the progress of the Design Innovation Committee that is looking into possibilities for use of the Kindergarten wing at the Sherman School considering the decreasing school enrollment. One possibility was to make it a community based building serving Park and Recreation and Seniors' needs.
  c. The future of Happy Acres Farm was discussed including some possibilities for Park and Recreation programs and the need for a commission representative on the Farm Committee. T.J. Fazzone volunteered.
  d. Fran Frattini reminded everyone that the October regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission will be held on October 7 and the November meeting will be on November 4; both adjustments had been made due to holidays.

Director's Report:

John Wrenn shared the following information:
  1. The ASP program has 5 or 6 participants on average so far, with a few new families using the program, including one eighth grader who is acting as a C.I.T. There was a discussion. Alyssa Grioili and Kristin Polumbo will assist Christine Celio with the supervision of ASP.
  2. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account report through September 7, 2019.
  3. There is basketball every Saturday with Bob Ostrosky.
  4. Dorinda Lenahan continues to run a free exercise class on Saturday mornings at 9:30.
  5. Basketball youth league will begin in November.
  6. Tuesday night basketball is supposed to start this week but Mr. Wrenn is waiting for approval.
  7. Volleyball will start soon.
  8. Tennis lessons are being offered, instructed by Paul Harwood.
  9. The Tennis ladder is still going on.
 10. Mrs. Frattini reported that she had learned that the Adult Scouts have been discussing the use of bathroom facilities for the Scouts – possibly at the Playhouse or with a porta potty in an outhouse outside the Old School House with Historic District Commission approval. This discussion has not included Park and Recreation and has been with the First Selectman.
11. It was noted that often the Park and Recreation Commission is not included in decisions by the BOS that concern Park and Recreation facilities, as they may be unaware of the scope of the responsibilities of the Park and Recreation Commission.

*Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the September 9, 2019 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett  
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix  
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be October 7, 2019.

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