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

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

Absent:
Rachel Booth

Guests: Ginny Gamper

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:21pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
1. New Milford Boy Scout Troop 158 had requested use of the parking lot at the Town Park for the troop's camp-out on Green Island on September 21-22. There was a discussion. A motion to approve the Boy Scout Troop 158’s application for use of the parking lot at the Town Park for September 21-22 for no more than 10 vehicles was made by Denise DePalma and seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted all in favor.

2. There was a request by Dr. Dale Krier for use of the pavilion for the annual Pet Memorial on September 8. It was noted that Fran Frattini donates the pavilion fee for this event. A motion to approve the application for use of the pavilion for the entire day of September 8, 2019 for the annual Pet Memorial was made by Stan Greenbaum and seconded by Denise DePalma and voted all in favor.

3. There had been a request from Mrs. Olga Gurry for use of the pavilion on August 31 for a picnic for a group of Danbury Hospital staff. There was a discussion,
including the possibility of granting the request for a reduced or waived fee for this event given in honor of the float pool that Mrs. Gurry supervises at the hospital.

A motion to approve the application by Mrs. Gurry for use of the pavilion for the entire day of August 31 for her staff picnic and to reduce the fee by 50% was made by Stan Greenbaum and seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor.

Minutes from June 17, 2019 Regular Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by Denise DePalma, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:

Ginny Gamper attended the meeting to discuss why the beach was closed on July 4. John Wrenn explained in detail the situation. Of the 13 guards employed, only 3 were available to work, 2 of the 3 being first year guards. As the holiday approached one of the three guards became unavailable. Mr. Wrenn described his extensive efforts to enlist the help of other lifeguards from the other 4 towns on the lake. There were no other guards available and for safety reasons the beach was closed. A sign was posted at the beach and the information was on the town website. Liability issues, non-resident attendance and availability of bathrooms were discussed. It was suggested that if the beach needed to be closed again perhaps a gate guard could be on site to explain the closure.

There was a further discussion, including steps that could be taken to prevent this from happening again. It was noted that in the 30+ years that Mr. Wrenn has been the Director, this was the first time the beach needed to be closed on July 4. Mr. Wrenn stated that next summer the lifeguards would be required to sign an agreement to work the July 4th holiday when they are hired. One option suggested was possibly offering holiday pay for the July 4th shifts, which will be discussed at budget time.

Stan Greenbaum suggested investigating a collaboration with the five lake towns to create common, standardized qualifications for lifeguards in the future. The goal would be to develop a “mutual aid” system so that towns could share guards when needed. A town would pay their own lifeguard for going to assist in another town; the town receiving aid would reimburse the assisting town for that pay. This way the guard's rate of pay would be consistent and they would not have to go through the other towns’ hiring process, which can be time-intensive.

John Wrenn noted that this plan would require a discussion with all the Park and Recreation Directors, their Commissions and likely their Selectmen/Mayors. Mr. Wrenn will work on this possibility.

It was noted that a resident had requested more advertising for the Summer Concert Series. Options were discussed beyond the current advertising that is done in the Park and Recreation summer brochure, the local papers, the Town website and the sandwich boards that are placed at the intersection of Rte. 39 and Route 37 @ the School. Other options discussed included utilizing the Town's Nixel system and installing an enclosed bulletin board at the pavilion.
Correspondence:
1. Denise DePalma asked about the bench that was supposed to be installed at the Community Garden. Mr. Wrenn noted that it was scheduled to be installed tomorrow. The appropriateness of installing a bench inside the tennis courts was waiting further research.
2. Mrs. Frattini reported that she had written a letter to James Day, thanking him for his Eagle Project that was the building and installation of two cornhole games at the Town Park. In her letter, she made note of the fact that the Commission had asked James to not install the bench as the location was not at the hill but closer to the fence. The Commission was pleased with the results of James' efforts and the Senior Camp and other visitors to the park are enjoying the games on a daily basis. The lifeguards have the corn hole beanbags available to loan.
3. John Wrenn shared a letter he had received from New Fairfield High School. The school was thanking Sherman Park and Recreation for allowing them to use the tennis courts for their team's practices and matches during this past spring while the NFHS courts were being repaired. A copy of the thank you letter will be sent to the BOS.

Maintenance and Repairs:
1. John Wrenn reported that he has the help of three young people doing community service for speeding violations; they are doing weeding and putting up the windscreens on the tennis courts.
2. The vandalism at the Town Park Pavilion bathrooms has been cleaned up. A plumber inspected a leak at the pavilion and found no issues.
3. One of the Veterans Field toilets had gotten locked. It can only be locked with a key. Doors were originally supposed to be locked and unlocked remotely but there is not enough service at Veterans Field currently to allow the transmitter to work. Options for getting a more powerful WiFi service at Veterans Field were discussed, as well as having it available at Town Park and Colonial Field also.
4. The installation of security cameras at the Town Park Pavilion was discussed.
5. It was noted that the bottom part of the gate guard shed at the Town Park is rotting and needs repair. Mr. Wrenn will look into it.

Facilities:
- John Wrenn described the “tennis ladder” competition that is underway. There are 7 adults signed up for it so far.
- Capital non-recurring budget issues were discussed.
- Proposed 2019-20 budget items were discussed. It was noted that the chain link fence at Volunteer Park and the stairs from the school down to Veterans Field were approved and Mr. Wrenn would speak to the First Selectman about having them on the agenda of the next Town Meeting. The Commission had gotten a proposal for the chain link fence of about $8,000 and also one for the stairs for about $9,000. Both of these
projects were under the $10,000 threshold and would not need to go out to bid. Also approved was the fence to be installed at Munch Meadows. It was noted that there was supposed to be a walking path mowed into the meadows per a request from the Conservation Commission. John Wrenn will make calls to connect the Conservation Commission with the Town Crew to arrange for appropriate mowing.

**New Business/Old Business:**

a. Dog Park Exploratory Committee has not met yet due to the lack of response from the request for participants. Mr. Wrenn will put out the request again.

b. Use of electronics (cell phones, etc) at Senior Camp was discussed. The new rules of Senior Camp allow for camper's use of electronics only at lunchtime. Parents are instructed to call the Park and Recreation Department if they need to get a message to their child and if need be, the child can then call their parents.

c. Counselor pay rates were discussed, as well as the planned increases in Connecticut's minimum wage over the next 3-4 years. The Park and Recreation Commission has tried to stay ahead of the minimum wage over the years. The impending increase in minimum wage will likely mean increases in camp fees.

d. Paul Hurwood had requested use of the tennis courts to teach private lessons for adults. There was a discussion. It was the consensus of the Commission that Mr. Hurwood can give adult tennis lessons through Park and Recreation, much like he has done with youth lessons.

**Director's Report:**

John Wrenn shared the following information:

1. The ASP Director has tendered her resignation. John Wrenn will be looking for candidates for the position for next school year. The program cost the Department about $2,300 as expected. Enrollment for 2019-20 school year was already looking promising for a better year, according to Mr. Wrenn.

2. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account report through June 2019. He noted that there was $24.96 left at the end of June.

3. A new computer is needed in the Park and Recreation office for Mr. Wrenn. His is about 10 years old. It was estimated that a new one may cost about $600 and may possibly be purchased from the operating budget or the program account.

4. Swim lessons have 25 enrolled in Session I, 23 in Session II and 16 in Session III so far.

5. Junior Camp has 33 children enrolled and Senior Camp has 103 children enrolled. It was suggested that ASP flyers be given to camp children at the end of the summer.

6. Paddle-board Camp has 8 participants.

7. There are 15 enrolled in tennis lessons.

8. Multi-sports Camp has 5 enrolled.

Stan Greenbaum gave a detailed update on the Design and Innovations Committee of which he is a member. The Committee was formed to explore options for
the future of the kindergarten wing at the Sherman School and is made up of a professional design consultant, teachers, students, the Board of Education, the First Selectman, parents, seniors and other members of the community. The consultants found several areas of non-compliance in the kindergarten wing. One of the suggestions was to knock down the wing entirely. The future needs of the entire community had been explored by the committee, especially the growing senior population in Sherman. The role of the Park and Recreation Department was discussed, including serving the needs of seniors and collaborating with other Town agencies.

With no further business, Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the July 8, 2019 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be August 12, 2019.

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