Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 14, 2020

Present:  
Fran Frattini-Chairman
Stan Greenbaum (by phone)
Kris Fazzone
T.J. Fazzone
Rachel Booth
Karen Kellett
John Wrenn-Director

Absent:

Guests: Denise DePalma, Amanda O’Neill, Muriel Grabe,

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:18pm.

Mrs. Frattini noted that Denise DePalma had moved out of town and therefore was no longer a voting member of the Commission, Ms. DePalma added that she was here to tender her resignation from the Commission. This being so Ms. DePalma was considered a guest at this meeting.

Minutes from August 10, 2020 Regular Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was made by T.J. Fazzone, seconded by Kris Fazzone and voted with all in favor.
Pavilion and Facilities Applications

a. There was a discussion about a request from the SPTO to use Veterans Field Gazebo for 2 movie nights on October 16 and 17. Amanda O’Neill, representing the SPTO, presented the proposal for the events, including: the types of movies to be shown, one of which would be animated and the other scary but not animated; plans for socially distancing small pre-registered groups on the lawn; parking areas to be used; possible concessions; maximum attendance. It was noted that the Health Department would likely need to be involved with any concessions at the events. Ms. O’Neill noted that if these events went well, more may be planned for the spring. There was a discussion.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the SPTO request to use Veterans Field and Gazebo for two movie nights on October 16 and 17, 2020. The motion was seconded by Rachel Booth and voted with all in favor.

Ms. O’Neill thanked the Commission and left the meeting.

b. There was an application from New Milford Troop 158 to use the Town Park to park vehicles and put in their canoes for their annual overnight camping trip to Green Island on September 19 and 20, 2020. There was a discussion.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to accept the application from New Milford Troop 158 to use the Town Park parking lot and put in their canoes for their annual camping trip to Green Island on September 19-20, 2020. The motion was seconded by Karen Kellett and was voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:

a. Denise DePalma noted that the Town crew had done a great job with watering the Community Gardens and also thanked the Fire Department for filling the holding tank with water. Ms. DePalma added that in this particularly dry summer, the gardeners were especially appreciative of the efforts. She also noted that she felt the Park and Rec. gate guards did a very good job checking passes during a very difficult summer.

b. Muriel Grabe reviewed the labyrinth proposal she had brought before the commission earlier this year. There was a discussion, including possible shapes or designs, landscape materials and locations for a labyrinth if the project went forward. Possible locations included a clearing on the trail between Colonial Park and the Town Park or the Upper Meadows at Volunteer Park. Possible costs of the project were discussed. Ms. Grabe noted that she would try to get a proposal together for the Commission that included a budget for materials as well as a rendition of what a labyrinth might look like in a certain location and from there look at costs of the plantings needed. Involving local gardeners in the project was discussed. Ms. Grabe left the meeting at 7:45pm.
Correspondence:
John Wrenn had received notification from a local parent with praise for the summer camp, stating that her child loved it.

Maintenance and Repair/Facilities Reports:
a. The "E" section of the docks at the Town Park had lost one of the two pins holding it in place. Tucker had fixed it right away.
b. The composting toilet at Veterans Field has been winterized.
c. There had been damage to several sections of the new fence at Volunteer Park soccer field during the August tropical storm. Mr. Wrenn has gotten 2 of 3 necessary estimates to repair the fence.
d. The renovation of Upper Veterans Soccer Field was discussed. Funds would need to be approved at a Town Meeting. Options for creating specs for the bidding process were discussed, including using a professional service or utilizing the expertise of Commission members for the task. Location and size of field, time frame for renovations as well as materials needed were discussed. Notification to First Light was discussed. Fran Frattini reminded the Commission that Park and Recreation has a blanket permit to maintain and repair all their facilities within First Light’s jurisdiction but it was necessary to inform the company of the activity. It was noted that there had been an estimate of $75,000 given for budgetary purpose when the project was first discussed.
d. The bench at the basketball courts needs to be replaced. It was noted that the Scouts could be approached to see if they would be interested in taking on the project.

Old Business/New Business:
a. There was no report on the Dog Park.
b. There was a discussion about the Park and Recreation Department’s Maintenance person. The position has not been filled yet there is still a need for the position and plans for hiring efforts again for early next spring.
c. The Labyrinth project proposal was reviewed, including choices for materials, locations, volunteer efforts and timing for project to go into next year’s budget. It was noted that this project would likely be a Capital budget item and would need approval at a Town Meeting. A cost range of $3,00 to $5,000 was discussed.

Director’s Report:
a. Mr. Wrenn shared the July checking account report.
b. Part of the Summer Concert Series, “Jazz at the Beach”, will be held September 20 at 4:30 at the Town Park.
c. ASP was discussed. It was noted that the program is very lightly attended but there were a few more children likely to sign up.
d. The Sherman Seniors are having a luncheon at the Pavilion on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.
As noted above, it was again announced that Denise DePalma was resigning from the Commission due to a recent move out of Sherman. The Commission thanked Ms. DePalma for all her hard work and enthusiasm in the 7+ years she was on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Karen Kellett made a motion to adjourn the September 14, 2020 Park and Recreation Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Rachel Booth and voted all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission is Monday, October 5, 2020
Note this is the first Monday due to the second being a holiday.

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