Sherman Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
April 12, 2021  

Present:  
Fran Frattini-Chairman  
John Wrenn-Director  
Rachel Booth  
T.J. Fazzone  
Kris Fazzone (via phone)  
Stan Greenbaum (joined via phone at 7:42pm)  

Absent:  
Bill Butts  
Karen Kellett  

Guests: Chip Zellner, Don Lowe  

Call to order:  
Chairman Fran Frattini called the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:21pm at Charter Hall.  

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:  
Chip Zellner of the Berkshire Jazz Orchestra (aka “Berkshire Big Band”) requested the use of the Town Park pavilion for two consecutive Tuesdays, June 1 and 8, with rain dates of June 2 and 9, respectively, for his band’s rehearsal. Mr. Zellner was requesting use of the pavilion from approximately 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The band consists of a total of 16 musicians and a vocalist and some amplification. There was a discussion, including the fact that the park officially closed at 8:00pm and staying later would require Commission approval. There was further discussion, including that the public was welcome to come to the Town Park and listen to the rehearsals.  

Kris Fazzone made a motion to accept the request made by Chip Zellner for use of the Town Park pavilion for 2 rehearsals on June 1 and 8 with June 2 and 9 as rain dates with each rehearsal running from 6:00pm -9:00pm. T.J. Fazzone seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.
Minutes from March 8, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission was made by Rachel Booth, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor. Minutes accepted as written.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Correspondence:
There was no correspondence.

Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:

1. John Wrenn reported that Donny Borkowski had worked on a few things at the Town Park, including repairs to the fence and the boardwalk, putting the “E” section of the docks in the water and looking into sand and mulch for the Town Park.

2. There was a request to put up the windscreens and the nets at the tennis courts. Mr. Wrenn will take care of this.

3. Kris Fazzone had shared detailed information about the Upper Veterans Soccer Field renovation project that he worked on with Tim Beatty. The plan was examined and discussed, including the proposed increase in size of the renovated field and the process needed to get it through the bidding process. Don Lowe offered to help Mr. Fazzone take the proposal and put it into the format needed to get it ready to go out to bid. Mr. Lowe noted that once they were in, the bids would go to the BOS for approval and then to a town meeting to get approval for the funds. There was further discussion. T.J. Fazzone made a motion to approve the request for the proposal on Upper Veterans Soccer expansion and renovation as presented. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.

4. Fran Frattini noted that she had received a request from the CLA to reconfigure their docks at the base at the Town Park. Mrs. Frattini shared a diagram of the proposal and there was a discussion, including the possible need to get approval from First Light and Inland Wetlands Commission. It was noted that the new design would not increase the number of docks and it would not extend any farther into the lake than the existing configuration. Rachel Booth made a motion to accept the CLA’s plan to reconfigure their docks at the base as proposed. Kris Fazzone seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.
New Business/Old Business:

1. There has been no Dog Park report. There was a discussion about removing the Dog Park report from the regular agenda. The consensus was to remove the item due to inactivity, knowing that it could be added back in at any time in the future if needed.

2. There was a review of the topic of the position of maintenance person for Park and Recreation and the fact that the BOS had decided to go in another direction and not hire a person for this position. It was noted that the work could get done without dedicated personnel in the position. This situation could be revisited in future years if needed.

3. Fran Frattini updated the Commission on the progress with Walker Butts’ Eagle Scout project, noting that paperwork had been filed and CLA advised.

4. There was a discussion about the Conservation Commission’s recent proposal for a program to remove invasive species from Veterans Field. It was noted that the Conservation Commission was having the Town send a check to FLPR from the commission’s account. It was also noted that this is a two-part request for First Light’s approval: for the Conservation Commissions program and the Walker Butts’ Eagle Scout project. Mrs. Frattini did not have the official approval in hand but that it was likely on its way.

5. Rachel Booth presented a review of her visit to the JCC and discussion with Henry Cooperman about possible partnering with the JCC to offer more programs to the community. Ms. Booth described the spaces available and many possibilities for programs, such as various fitness classes, art, cooking and dancing. The JCC has installed a new filtration system and is scheduled to reopen in May. Online registration was discussed, including fees that would include a percentage going to the JCC and to Park and Recreation. Mr. Wrenn noted that anyone wishing to propose a class or program should call him and together they will work out the details.

Director’s Report:

1. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account information for January, February and March.

2. Mr. Wrenn described the recent “Hybrid Hop” modified annual Egg Hunt at the Town Park. It was well organized, the volunteers did a great job, the day was beautiful but attendance was very low. Communication about the event was discussed, including the need for flyers to be sent out next year through the school, as that has proven to be the most effective way to get the word out. The event was advertised in the newspaper, posters at the Sherman IGA, and through the SPTO. Don Lowe suggested that it also go out on Nixle next year.
3. Kayak and canoe rack rentals beginning this coming Saturday, April 17. Mr. Wrenn noted that there has been an unprecedented number of kayaks and canoes in recent years. There will be a staff member at the office to hand out numbers at 8:00am but the registration begins at 9:00am when the office opens. Adding additional racks was discussed.

4. Garden plots will be assigned on Saturday, April 24. Mr. Wrenn noted he will hold the same plots for returning gardeners for up to 3 weeks and then they may be reassigned. Tilling the soil was discussed, as well as opening day for the gardens. It was noted that May 15 will be the target for opening day for the Community Gardens, giving ample time for tilling as well as the stringing of the plot boundaries.

5. There are 15 individuals on the boat slip waiting list. Some boaters with larger boats are worried that their boats will not fit. Past efforts to increase the size of boat slips were reviewed.

6. The CLA’s Lake Stewardship program was reviewed, including how the group will cycle through each of the boat launches in the towns on the lake with educational information throughout the season. On the “off weekends”, leaflets will be available at the launches with the same information for boaters.

7. Mr. Wrenn had consulted with Tim Simpkins, Health Director for Sherman and New Fairfield, regarding vaccines and summer staff. There was a discussion. It was noted that Mr. Wrenn would ask each of the paid summer staff to be vaccinated by the end of June. Paid summer staff are aged 16 and up and include camp and beach staff.

8. Mr. Wrenn noted that although summer camp will be run as close to usual as possible, with all appropriate Covid-19 protocols in place, there will be no bus trips. Specialists and entertainers will be sought to do programs at camp. Walking field trips were discussed, including to the Sherman Library and to the Historical Society.

9. ASP continues to do well.

10. Mr. Wrenn is accepting applications for summer jobs at camp and at the beach.

11. The start date of summer camps was discussed. It seemed likely that June 21 would be the start date, if the school gets out as early as planned. The full 6 weeks of camp will be offered. Specialty camps in August were discussed, as well as the need to update the paperwork for camp including waivers and protocols. It was noted that cleaning procedures can be scaled back a bit and can be handled by the regular staff, eliminating the need for extra staff members.
Any and All Business to come before the Commission:

There was a discussion about possible software for Park and Recreation for online registration. T.J. Fazzone and Stan Greenbaum will be looking into this issue.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to adjourn the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was voted all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be May 10, 2021.

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