Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 9, 2021

Present:  
Fran Frattini-Chairman  
John Wrenn-Director  
Kris Fazzone  
Rachel Booth  
T.J. Fazzone  
Bill Butts  
Stan Greenbaum

Absent:  
Karen Kellett

Guests: Tucker Butts, Charlotte Maher, Nicole Thorpe

Call to order:  
Chairman Fran Frattini called the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:25pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

1. John Wrenn reported that Nicole Thorpe had requested permission to fund-raise at the August 28, 2021 Summer Concert at which her band is performing. Nicole Thorpe explained that the fundraising would be to benefit and raise awareness for the Community Relief program run by the Congregational Church. This program helps people with issues such as food and bill paying assistance and is open to any Sherman resident. There was a discussion.

   **Kris Fazzone made a motion to accept the request to permit Ms. Thorpe to do fundraising at the August 28, 2021 Summer Concert to benefit the Congregational Church’s Community Relief program. Bill Butts seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.**
2. The Sherman Volunteer Fire department had requested use of the Pavilion at the Town Park on September 26, 2021 for the full day for Volunteer Firemen Appreciation Day celebration. There was a discussion.

   Bill Butts made a motion to accept the application for use of the Town Park Pavilion all day on September 26, 2021 for the Sherman Volunteer Firemen Appreciation celebration and to waive the fee. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.

Minutes from July 12, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

   Fran Frattini noted that there was one correction needed to the minutes for July 12, 2021. The date on the footer should be changed from May 10 to July 12, 2021.

   Rachel Booth made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission as corrected, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted with all in favor. Minutes accepted as corrected

Minutes from July 22, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Special Meeting:

   Rachel Booth made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 22 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Special Meeting, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and passed with all in favor. Minutes accepted as written.

Public Comment:

   Charlotte Maher requested consideration be given to moving the rowboat rack at the Town Park as it was interfering with the view of the lake. There was a discussion including how the current location was chosen as well as possible alternative placements. It was noted that the Park and Recreation Department will look into the possibility of moving the rowboat rack to its original location where it would not interfere with the view.

Correspondence:

   There was no correspondence.
Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:

a. Everything looks good with boat launches, Town Park, tennis courts, Veterans Field, Colonial Field, the Scout House, Munch Meadows and all other Park and Recreation areas and facilities except Volunteer Park. A tree had fallen on the fence at the park in approximately the same spot as had happened before. There was an estimate received for repairs to the fence in the amount of $1,075.00. There was a discussion, including the possibility of doing some proactive tree removal in the near future. Don Lowe suggested that he and the tree warden and Ron Cooper could walk through Park and Recreation properties and make a recommendation. Kris Fazzone and Stan Greenbaum indicated that they would like to be part of that walk through.

   Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the expenditure of $1,075.00 for fence repair at Volunteer Park. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

b. It was noted that the funding for the renovation of Veterans Field upper soccer field was approved at a recent Town meeting. The bid submitted by Tim Beatty was accepted and Mr. Beatty is just waiting for approval from First Light. There was a discussion.

c. The Porsche Club is holding an event at the Town Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 15, 2021 from 10:00-3:00 and has requested permission to reserve several parking spaces for the Porsches on display that day. There was a discussion.

   Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the Porsche club reserving parking spots from the chained opening in the guardrails to the end of the parking lot for the Porches for the event on Sunday August 15, 2021 from 10:00 – 3:00. T.J. Fazzone seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

New Business/Old Business:

a. There was a discussion on the subject of the level of interest of the Park and Recreation Commission in creating pocket parks. Prior to this meeting, several Commission members had walked an area of Cedar Lane that had been suggested by resident Craig Bell as an appropriate location for a pocket park. Issues related to pocket parks in general were explored, including but not limited to parking, maintenance, liability, cost to create, benefit to the public, impact on a neighborhood and type of traffic that would be attracted. The idea of creating a map of scenic paths and trails was discussed.

   Rachel Booth made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission continue to explore the concept of pocket parks. Stan Greenbaum seconded. The motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (TJ Fazzone)
b. There was a discussion about the possible new locations for the Senior Center, as well as speculation about future senior housing and a new home for the Park and Recreation department.

c. It was noted that the Conservation Commission has completed a second invasive species removal session at Veterans Field during the last weekend in July. Don Lowe noted that the “Weed Warriors” are making progress.

d. John Wrenn noted that there had been no calls to him from the JCC (Jewish Community Center) or any instructors about possible programs in collaboration with Park and Recreation. Mr. Wrenn had spoken to Mary Jo Dix about doing cooking classes next summer for Camp at the JCC. In addition Mr. Wrenn had spoken with Sherman School After-school Activities Coordinator, Chris Carlone, about various classes coordinated with the JCC.

**Director’s Report:**

a. John Wrenn shared income and expense information with the Commission. He noted that there had been 3 performers at the summer camp and that the fees were paid from the checking account. Individual campers did not have to pay for each special show as they had in past summers. Mr. Wrenn also discussed some orders of summer season supplies that had been unusually delayed in arriving, apparently due to supply chain limitations and a few items have not yet arrived.

b. Jeanine Lynch did a great job as the Director of both Junior and Senior Camps, having point people at each camp that also did outstanding jobs.

c. ASP is on track to continue for the 2021-22 school year with current supervisors returning.

d. There are 2 more Summer Concerts left in the 2021 series: “Good Time Charlies” on Sunday, August 22 and Nicole Thorpe and Friends on Saturday, August 28.

e. There were 50 children enrolled in Junior Camp and 90 in Senior Camp. Extended afternoon camp hours were very well attended with close to 60 children on some days. Fees for extended hours for 2022 were discussed.

f. Swim lessons had 16, 21 and 25 respectively in the three sessions that had been offered this summer.

g. Lifeguards will be on duty until the end of August but not the Labor Day weekend. Fully staffing the beach has been challenging at times and the beach had to be closed once or twice due to lack of an appropriate number of lifeguards.

Rachel booth noted that the deadline for applying for certain grants for walking trails was November 1, 2021. The grants could be for almost any facet of trail projects such as the cost of planning, designing, building and maintaining. There was a discussion about the proposed multi-use walking path as well as possible upcoming Eagle Scout projects. In addition there was a discussion about possibly moving the current kayak racks when it comes time to install a new boardwalk at the Town Park. Bill Butts noted that a sign was still needed for the invasive species disposal station that was an Eagle
Scout project at the Town Park. Mr. Wrenn advised he would contact the CLA regarding this signage.

With no further business, T.J. Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the August 9, 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 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled of September 13, 2021

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