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

Present:
Fran Frattini-Chairman
John Wrenn-Director
Karen Kellett (via phone)
Rachel Booth
T.J. Fazzone
Kris Fazzone (arrived at 8:53pm)
Stan Greenbaum

Absent:
Bill Butts
Kris Fazzone (till8:53)

Guests: Craig Bell

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:19pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
John Wrenn reported on a recurring application by the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department for use of Veterans Field and the Pavilion for their annual Softball Tournament on Saturday September 18, 2021, with a rain date of Sunday September 19 and for approximately 200 in attendance.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to accept the request made by the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department for use of Veterans Field and Pavilion for their annual Softball Tournament on Saturday September 18 for 200 people with a rain date of Sunday September 19. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.

Mr. Wrenn also noted that there were a small number of open dates left for pavilion rentals.
Minutes from May 10, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting was made by Rachel Booth, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor. Minutes accepted as written.
It was noted that the June 14, 2021 meeting had been canceled due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment:
John Wrenn summarized a proposal made by Craig Bell for the creation of a mini park off of Cedar Lane, in the spur off of Ledgewood Drive that leads to the last lot on Cedar Lane. Mr. Bell shared photos of the existing area and his ideas for what this micro-park might look like. He described it as a pedestrian path with benches that would have a view of the lake but no access to the lake. There was a discussion, including the process necessary for a piece of Town land to become a parcel under Park and Recreation’s purview. Mr. Bell noted that there had been a retaining wall built that was blocking the pedestrian pathway. It was suggested that Mr. Bell approach the BOS. The Park and Recreation Commission will send an email to the First Selectman stating that the Commission heard Mr. Bell’s proposal and are sympathetic to his request. It was also suggested that Mr. Bell obtain support from his neighbors for this cause.

Correspondence:
Mr. Wrenn had received correspondence from Sherman Cares organization with payment for 4 children to participate in summer camp. Mr. Wrenn sent a thank you note on behalf of the Commission.

Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:
  a. Everything looks good with boat launches, Town Park, tennis courts, Veterans Field, Colonial Field, Volunteer Park, the Scout House, Munch Meadows and all other Park and Recreation areas and facilities.
  b. The bid process for the Upper Veterans Field soccer field renovations was discussed. It was noted that the field is below the 440 and therefore renovations need approval from First Light. If First Light approves then the project can move forward. The bid specs are out and include an expansion of the field. The dimensions were discussed, as was the desire to have the field ready for play by the spring of 2022. Mrs. Frattini noted that First Light has a new application process for approval of a project. It was also noted that the bids are due back by July 22 and that a Special Meeting would be needed for the Commission to review bids and make a recommendation to the BOS. Mrs. Frattini will contact Commission members with date and time for Special Meeting after speaking to the First Selectman.

New Business/Old Business:
  a. Remy Hafer has completed his Eagle Scout project of building a new kayak rack at the Town Park. The rack is already fully rented with several more requests for spaces.
b. The Conservation Commission has started their project to remove invasive species and add native plantings at Veterans Field.

c. Mr. Wrenn noted that there have been young adults at the boat launch checking for zebra mussels and, to his knowledge, none have been discovered. In addition, algae blooms are not currently a problem at the Town Park however the coliform level is a bit high but still within the acceptable limits. The effect of recent heavy rainfall was discussed.

d. The collaboration between the JCC and Park and Recreation was discussed. Mr. Wrenn had heard from one individual interested in teaching a course. Including JCC announcements on the Park and Recreation website was discussed. If information is emailed to John Wrenn he will post it.

e. Mr. Wrenn noted that Chris Carlone had been named After-school Coordinator for the Sherman School. Mr. Carlone had conducted a survey of student interests and both skiing and chess were named. It was suggested that Mr. Carlone could coordinate the skiing aspect with Park and Recreation and the chess portion with the JCC.

f. It was suggested that signage was needed at the Town Park Pavilion to state that both smoking and alcohol were not allowed. There was a discussion.

g. Mr. Wrenn described a party that had reserved the pavilion for an event with 50 people but there were closer to 100 people in attendance on the day. Guests were drinking, were rude to the guards and the Trooper had to be called. There was a discussion. Pavilion rental rules need to be updated to clearly state that all garbage must be removed by the renter. Mr. Wrenn described an incident that had to be dealt with involving a jet ski doing donuts in the cove, which is a no-wake zone, playing loud music and drinking.

h. The proposed passive walking trail between Saw Mill Road and Colonial Field. It was noted that a written proposal needs to be developed.

i. Mrs. Frattini noted that starting with the August meeting, the location for the Park and Recreation Regular monthly meetings would be changed back to Mallory Town Hall.

Kris Fazzone arrived at 8:53pm. Fran Frattini updated Mr. Fazzone on the information concerning the Veterans Field soccer field renovation and the Commission’s discussion on Mr. Bell’s proposal.

**Director’s Report:**

a. John Wrenn reported that we were in the 4th week of summer camp. Junior Camp has 45 participants, Senior Camp has 87 for total of 132 children. The highlight of camp will be a visit by the New Milford Police Department helicopter that will land on Veterans Field.

b. The three sessions of swim lessons have 16, 21 and 18 enrolled. It was noted that the first week of swim lessons was postponed due to a death in the family of the instructor.
c. Mr. Wrenn noted that New Milford was planning on tightening its rules for widths of boats in their slips. The Commission will review its rules and regulations regarding boat slips. Park and Recreation regulations are in a Town ordinance which gives the power to enforce them. If new or amended ordinance is needed, it will have to go to a Town meeting. Mr. Wrenn had reviewed the most recent ordinance (1988) and it does not mention size of a boat for the slips. It was suggested that size of boat could be required on the form when applying for a boat slip at registration time. The application will be modified and circulated to the Commission members for review.

d. All the boat slips have been rented, including one that was turned in which was taken by an individual on the waiting list.

e. There is scheduled use of Veterans Field by 2 youth teams and 1 adult league this summer.

f. Mr. Wrenn asked Kris Fazzone if the Fire Department could bring an ambulance to the camp the same day as the helicopter from New Milford. Mr. Fazzone checked and it seems that this will work out, barring any emergencies.

With no further business, Stan Greenbaum made a motion to adjourn the July 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 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone
Park and Recreation Commission Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be August 9, 2021 at MTH.

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