Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 4, 2021

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

Guests: Brian Meenhan

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:21pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
John Wrenn reported that there were still a few rentals of the pavilion taking place this weekend.

Minutes from August 9, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:
Fran Frattini noted that there was no meeting in September due to lack of quorum.

Rachel Booth made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor. Minutes accepted as written
Public Comment:

Brian Meenhan thanked the Commission and John Wrenn for providing so many good programs over the summer. Mr. Meenhan asked about the possibility of adding more slips at the Town Park docks. There was a discussion, including a history of the attempts to increase the size of the boat docks and the resistance met at the time. Possibilities that had been discussed in the past were examined again. The Commission agreed to revisit the issue during the winter months and would include in the discussions possible locations, proximity to swim area and potential for additional slips in the E section of the docks.

It was noted that all the docks were new over the past few years and that the next portion of project was to re-do the boardwalk and seawall. The boat slip lottery and waiting list were discussed. Mr. Wrenn reported that there was an offer from a Boy Scout troop to build new docks assuming an appropriate placement could be found.

Correspondence:

Correspondence from Craig Bell regarding parking for a possible pocket park on Cedar Lane was reviewed.

Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:

a. Mr. Wrenn reported that there had been some vandalism at the boat docks. Three or more young teens had gone for a joy ride in a boat that had the keys left in it. Apparently the teens went back the next day, found no keys in the boat and proceeded to do vandalize the boat. There was a discussion, including the addition of more security cameras.

The fence repair at Volunteer Park is supposed to take place this week as well as the capping of the on the fence. The last finger of the C section at the boat docks had ripped away from the wall during storm Ida and Mr. Wrenn has called Tucker for an estimate on repairs. The seawall and boardwalk project was discussed. This project should happen in the 2022-2023 budget year and should include details about moving the docks to accommodate the building a new seawall. It was noted that the expectation was that Public Works would handle moving the docks onto the beach in advance of the seawall/boardwalk project. It will be necessary to get an updated estimate for the boardwalk and seawall project, get approval at a Town meeting for the funds and then go out to bid.

b. The renovations to the Upper Veterans soccer field will not happen this fall as there is not enough growing season left before winter to give the field time to take hold. It is pushed off until next spring and then will have all of the spring and summer to get
established and be ready for play in the fall. There was also a discussion about Park and Recreation running a soccer program, including doing instructional programs for the youngest players as opposed to a league of any sort. Mr. Wrenn will look into the possibilities.

**New Business/Old Business:**

a. There was a discussion on the subject Park and Recreation Commission possibly creating pocket parks. Rachel Booth gave a summary of the research she had done on this matter. Ms. Booth shared information about small parcels of land owned by the town that might be suitable for a pocket park if the Commission was interested in pursuing the concept. It was noted that often pocket parks are found in urban and suburban locales. Connecticut grants for parks and trails were discussed as well as the practice of including a small parcel of non-developed or open space land in sub-division plans. Passive uses of small parcels of land were discussed as well as possible coordination with land trusts in town. Rachel Booth will organize a field trip to potential sites along with other interested Commission members and report back at a future meeting.

b. It was noted that the Conservation Commission will be doing one more invasive species removal session and it will be the last one of the year.  
c. There was a discussion about possible programs that could be run in collaboration with the JCC, including adult and children’s classes, quilting, sewing and other crafts. It was suggested that an advertisement for interested instructors be placed in the Town Tribune and include terms of entering into an arrangement with Park and Recreation, minimum and maximum class size as well as the revenue-sharing nature of programs.

**Director’s Report:**

a. John Wrenn advised that Park and Recreation ran a successful Summer Concert Series and a good time was had by all.

b. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account report for July, August and September with the Commission. He noted that there is a healthy balance left in the checking account.

c. There was a discussion about raising the cost of boat slips, noting that Sherman slips cost the least of all the towns on the lake. It was noted that for the first time in many years time there needed to have a lottery for the boat slips. Mr. Wrenn stated that the lottery system was the most fair way to deal with boat slips assignments and noted that other towns have a system whereby once you are granted a boat slip, it is yours until you move away or sell your boat. In Sherman, after the lottery a small number of boats are on the waiting list.

d. There are no new programs on the horizon although skiing will be looked into soon.

e. ASP is holding its own with as many as 6 children some days.
Stan Greenbaum made a motion to adjourn the October 4, 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 Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled of November 8, 2021