Sherman Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
November 8, 2021

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

Absent:  
Bill Butts

Guests: Dan O’Connell

Call to order:  
Chairman Fran Frattini called the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:  
Sherman Boy Scout Troop 48 had presented a change in reservation for the Boy Scouts Camping and Pumpkin Chucking at Volunteer Park from November 6-7 to November 13-14, 2021. There was a discussion.  
Rachel Both made a motion to accept the change in the reservation for the Boy Scouts event from November 6-7 to November13-14 at Volunteer Park. Stan Greenbaum seconded and voted with all in favor.

Minutes from October 4, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:  
Fran Frattini noted that there was a correction needed to the October 4, 2021 meeting minutes: Brian Meenan’s last name had been misspelled.
Stan Greenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting as corrected, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and voted with all in favor.

Dan O’Connell presented a request from BSA Troop 48 for possible Eagle Scout projects and/or community service projects from the Commission that he could take back to the membership for consideration. There was a discussion. Projects discussed included signage and guidance at the trail heads at trails to American Pie and to Cedar Lane, walking the trails and reporting obstructions to Park and Recreation, rearrangement of kayak and rowboat racks, construction of an additional rack and creating more boat slips at the Town Park. Materials, supplies, designs, First Selectman and First Light involvement in various phases of the suggested projects were discussed. Mr. O’Connell will take all the suggestions to his troop members and report back to the Commission.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Correspondence:
T.J. Fazzone noted that Kathy Fazzone had inquired about the proposed Independence Village senior housing project she had heard about. There was a discussion including a note about meetings that were being held on the proposal currently as well as a summary of past efforts to develop senior housing near Colonial Field and the Community Garden. Stan Greenbaum noted he would be involved again and keep Park and Recreation’s concerns in the forefront of the discussions.

Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:
a. It was noted that the storage building at the Town Park was in need of repair. John Wrenn will look into this issue and be ready to discuss any needed projects at budget time. All other facilities were in good shape. It was noted that there had been remediation work on the stream banks near the tennis courts but there was no visible damage to the field from the large trucks that had passed over it during the project.
b. Upper Veterans Field renovation project was discussed, including that the goal was to make it a regulation-sized field.

Karen Kellett joined the meeting by phone at 7:50pm

New Business/Old Business:
a. There was a brief discussion about the concept of pocket parks. Rachel Both noted that she would compile a list of land trust parcels that may be suitable for consideration as pocket parks.
b. Collaborative efforts for programs between Park and Recreation and the JCC were discussed including how to recruit instructors, means of advertising classes, fee structures
and revenue sharing ideas and examining New Milford’s adult education programming for thoughts. Also discussed was a collaboration with the Sherman School to coordinate some of their after school activities with Park and Recreation’s ASP program.

c. Rachel Booth had developed and shared a proposal for a brief solicitation and a separate detailed terms of employment for instructors for classes that fit into the collaboration framework between Park and Recreation and the JCC. There was a discussion and a few edits were suggested. Mrs. Booth will make the changes and send the proposals to Henry Cooperman at the JCC for his input. She will then get back to Mr. Wrenn. Advertising class as well as means of registering for future classes were discussed including being connected to the JCC’s online registration program.

d. New trailhead signage and associated costs were discussed. Areas discussed included the trails heads at the Town Park, Colonial Field, Cedar Lane and American Pie. The Commission tabled the discussion until they hear back from the Scouts.

e. The election of officers was discussed. Fran Frattini noted that she has been Chairman for many years and she is willing to remain for another term, TJ Fazzone also advised he is willing to remain as Secretary/Treasurer. With no further discussion, Mrs. Frattini asked for nominations.

Stan Greenbaum nominated Fran Frattini as Chairman and T.J. Fazzone as Secretary/Treasurer. Rachel Booth seconded. The nomination was passed with all in favor. Mrs. Frattini and Mr. Fazzone will remain as Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer respectively for 2022.

f. The 2022 Commission meeting dates were discussed. After the discussion it was decided to move the February meeting from the 14th to the 7th. All were in favor of this change to the proposed meeting dates. Mrs. Frattini will send a revised 2022 meeting schedule to all involved. List is included at the end of these minutes.

g. There was a discussion about reviving youth soccer in town for the youngest group of players, namely 5-7 year-olds. T.J. Fazzone and Kris Fazzone offered to spearhead the effort to re-grow a youth soccer program, starting with skills classes not competition. They will look into equipment, instructors and possibly sharing resources with the Soccer Club and the school. The possibility of starting indoors this winter was discussed. Karen Kellett left the meeting at 8:55pm.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion that Park and Recreation run a soccer program with Kris Fazzone and T. J. Fazzone developing the details. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

**Director’s Report:**

a. John Wrenn shared the checking account information, noting that some of the funds in the balance of the account could be used for the newly proposed soccer program.

b. There are no new fall programs however skiing at Thunder Ridge will begin in January.

c. ASP is holding its own, with up to 8 children on some days.

d. There had been an incident at the Town Park involving a boat parked at the docks that was not eligible to be there. Mr. Wrenn described the involvement of DEEP representatives and their speedy resolution of the situation. The boat is no longer parked
at the Town Park docks
e. The Town Park E-section docks have been pulled out of the water for the off-season.
f. The bottom line for summer camp and swim lessons was that they took in $44,950.00 and the expenses were $37,590.00. It was noted that these numbers did not include boat slip rental fees. Previous years’ bottom lines were discussed. It was agreed that the department was not losing money on summer camp and swim lessons in the last several years.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Rachel Booth made a motion to adjourn the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. T.J. Fazzone seconded and the motion was voted all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled on December 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
The Sherman Park and Recreation Commission will meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:15 PM at Mallory Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

2022 Meeting dates as follows:

1. January 10, 2022
2. February 03, 2022 (note this is the First Monday)
3. March 14, 2022
4. April 11, 2022
5. May 09, 2022
6. June 13, 2022
7. July 11, 2022
8. August 08, 2022
9. September 12, 2022
10. October 03, 2022 (note this is the First Monday)
11. November 14, 2022
12. December 12, 2022