

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2017

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Stephen Krug, John Papalia, Don Penzine, Michele Sanz, Michele Werney, Kevin Westerman, and John Zattola.

Michael Papa was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Zattola to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mrs. Werney to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting. Mr. Boniello seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no questions or comments about Mr. Ralston's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Somers Youth Sports Organization – The Somers Youth Sports Organization (SYSO) is beginning to offer sports for 3-year olds and has requested to use the tennis courts for a tennis program. Mr. Ralston wanted everyone to be aware that these new SYSO programs will have an impact in terms of revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department. An Introduction to Sports program has been offered for this age group for many years and has been quite popular, but now has seen a decrease in registration. Mr. Ralston anticipates that there will also be a decline for the Town tennis lessons, once SYSO has its tennis program up and running.

An apparent failure to adhere to field assignments has led to overuse and damage to the fields in upper Reis. The damage threatens to cause the closure of those fields for all sports while the grass is restored and regrown. A policy to protect the fields and address this issue is necessary.

Both of these items will be discussed further at the November 29th meeting. All were asked to come prepared to discuss viable solutions.

Parks Master Plan Discussion – All were emailed a copy of the Parks Master Plan which was created in 2004, but needs to be updated. Some of the properties that are now under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Department are not included, and some projects listed are no longer viable. The Town of Somers Comprehensive Plan was just updated and adopted on February 11, 2016. It needs to be referenced as part of the process of updating the Parks Master Plan. Mr. Westerman is willing to take this on as a winter project.

OLD BUSINESS

2018 Budget Update – Mr. Ralston was happy to report that he and Mr. Westerman presented the department's 2018 budget to the Town Board and it was unanimously accepted as proposed. All complimented Mr. Ralston on a job well done.

High School Student Parking Update – Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman met with Somers High School Principal, Mark Bayer, to discuss the ongoing concerns about high school students parking their cars in Reis Park during school hours. During the last school year, approximately 40 students per day parked their cars at Reis Park, as there were not enough spaces for them to park at the High School. In addition to affecting parking for Library patrons, there were incidents with afternoon traffic that raised safety issues and concerns.

The meeting went well. Mr. Bayer does not condone High School students parking at Reis Park during school hours. Still, he assured Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman that he would cooperate to the extent that he can if the issues arise again this school year. If the safety issues should recur, he is willing to send a message to parents and students, that, for students caught speeding or being unsafe, Somers High School senior parking privileges will be revoked, and the ability for juniors to obtain senior parking next year would be prevented.

To date there have been no more than 10 cars parking in the Reis Park lot there have been no issues. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to monitor the situation.

Splash Park Update – At the May meeting, a discussion took place about the possibility of placing a splash park in Reis Park. Mrs. Werney requested an update. It was discussed that identifying a suitable location for the facility will probably require property expected to be obtained from the Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification. Since there are several other variables that come into play with erecting this type of facility it will be included in the planned updated Park Master Plan.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – As per the Town

Attorney on July 19, the Town has taken all required actions for the Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification and sent a complete package to the County Attorney. They now have to gain approval of the County Board of Legislators and then New York State's authorization is needed. Councilman Clinchy was to reach out to Michael Kaplowitz. As per Supervisor Morrissey, during the week of September 4th, he signed the EAF and Negative Declaration and they were sent to the County by the Town Attorney.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston didn't have any additional comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Papalia welcomed Mr. Westerman as the new Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Westerman announced that Mr. Penzine has graciously agreed to be the Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Board

cc: Parks & Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
Town Board
Town Clerk