

# Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman  
Chairman



## MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2017

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

Michael Papa and John Zattola were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston and resident Sam Sanz were also present.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Sanz, Boy Scout from Troop 376, attended the meeting as a requirement for his Communication Merit Badge.

### MINUTES

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

### MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

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

### NEW BUSINESS

**Reis Park Temporary Field Lights** – Several years ago, at the request of FC Somers Soccer, Parks and Recreation allowed the placement of temporary lights on Upper Reis, due to the R1 Outfield being shut down for renovations. The approval was based on the condition that having the lights would not negatively impact the condition of the fields. The lights were to be rotated and moved away from the worn areas of the fields.

The lights have significantly expanded the number of hours in a day that the fields can be used. The increased scheduling and use of the grass fields have resulted in damage to the fields, requiring closure of a field next spring, to allow it to be repaired. As such, the Board is considering options to implement, which will protect the fields from damage to the extent that field closures will be required. Solutions discussed included: limiting the number of teams per day/hour; not allowing lights, which minimizes the extended use of fields; spreading out the use on grass outfields when baseball/softball are not using them; and considering the efficacy of a turf field for Upper Reis. All were asked to

think about these options further, so the conversation can continue at the January meeting.

**2018 Fees Review** – All members received a copy of the proposed fees for 2018 prepared by Mr. Ralston. There are no increases over last year's submission. It will be forwarded to the Town Board for approval.

**2018 Meeting Dates** – The 2018 Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates are as follows: January 30 (Tuesday), February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, September 6 (Thursday), October 24, and November 28. The Board will not meet in August and December. All meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parks Master Plan Discussion** – Mr. Westerman emailed all members a copy of the Town of Somers Comprehensive Plan Update. It is his hope that all will peruse and take on the responsibility of working on a property in an effort to move forward on updating the Park Master Plan. This item will be placed on the January meeting agenda for further discussion. Mr. Ralston supplied all with an inventory description along with an inventory list.

## **MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Ralston didn't have any additional comments.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Papalia asked about developing the property on Route 6. Mr. Ralston indicated that seeing the Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification to fruition should be the priority and then planning facilities for that 11 acres. Mr. Papalia feels as though long-range plans for all facilities need to be explored.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 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