

# Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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James Papa  
Chairman



## MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 2017

Chairman Papa opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Jim Papa, Don Penzine, Michele Sanz Michele Werney, and John Zattola.

Stephen Krug, John Papalia, and Kevin Westerman were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, as well as Councilmen Rich Clinchy and Tom Garrity were also present.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is covered under New Business.

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2017 meeting as submitted. Mrs. Werney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

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

### NEW BUSINESS

**Splash Park Discussion** – Former Somers Library Children's Librarian Betsy Bishop attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of placing a splash park in Reis Park. While working at the Library she enjoyed watching the summer camp children playing on the waterslide and thought it might be nice to provide something more permanent. She would also like to make a donation toward it. Some samples of splash parks manufactured by Rain Drop Products were shared. The water is recirculated. 30 square feet is needed per child and the cost is \$120 to \$150 per square foot. All were in favor of researching a splash park further and Mrs. Bishop is willing to work with Steve Ralston in this endeavor. As part of the process, local splash parks in Danbury, Dutchess County and southern Westchester may be visited or consulted. Westchester County Health Department regulations would require a lifeguard. Other items for consideration include: location, hours, fees, monitoring, size, fencing, insurance, statistics, the ability to add on to it, etc. There will need to be access to water and electricity. It probably shouldn't be too far away from the bathroom facilities. Somers Day Camp Kindergarten Division Head Doris Jane Smith approached the Parks and

Recreation Board about a similar idea a few years back, but there were discussions about a Town pool going on at that time.

**The Friends of the Somers Library Invitation** – The Parks and Recreation Board has received an invitation from The Friends of the Somers Library to attend the dedication ceremony of the landscape plantings at the Somers Library on Saturday, June 3 at 11:00 a.m. The Friends of the Somers Library funded the project, with the landscape design donated by Ultimate Services Professional Grounds Management and the plants purchased from and planted by Katonah Nursery.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Camps Update** – There are 285 participants enrolled in Day Camp compared to 315 this time last year. Registration will continue to be accepted after May 28 on a case by case basis, but the fee will increase by \$50.00. Mr. Ralston is hopeful that the final number will be between 350 and 360. Parks and Recreation Assistant Superintendent Andrew Johnson and Day Camp Director Maria McGuire have been interviewing and hiring prospective staff based on the registration numbers. Day Camp trip registration and t-shirt distribution begins on June 5.

Registration for sports camps is ongoing. All were provided with a copy of the flyer announcing those camps.

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

Mr. Ralston had no comments this evening.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Sanz commented about the memo Mr. Ralston sent to Police Chief Driscoll on May 3 about the increase in excessive speed and reckless driving happening in Reis Park after 2:00 p.m. during the week and in the evenings. Evidently some of the afternoon issues are stemming from the Somers High School students parking in the Reis Park lot because there is not enough room in the Somers High School lot. The Somers Library has shared their concerns with the Town Police as well. Mr. Ralston made a request for increased patrols.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 28 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