

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

PO Box 46 Somers, New York 10589

OFF: (914)-232-8441

FAX: (914)-232-8548

Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2018

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

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

Jim Boniello, Michael Papa and John Zattola were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents, David Sammett and Romulo Wico, attended the meeting and asked about the possibility of the Town building a pool. The background history of the Town's four previous pool proposals that began in the 1980's and were defeated was shared with them. They were encouraged to research becoming members of one of the lake communities in Somers or neighboring Town pools.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting. Mr. Papalia seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Fall program registration began today and almost all offerings are full to capacity. All were delighted with the complimentary letter received about the summer camp, as well as thanks given to the staff for the men's softball games being able to go on as scheduled, despite a torrential downpour the day before. Chairman Westerman suggested that some language be added to the last two pages of the basketball court Request for Proposal with regard to indemnification.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Budget Review – Copies of the proposed budget for 2019, prepared by Mr. Ralston were shared with the Board members. A discussion and review took place. All were quite pleased with a job well done by Mr. Ralston and thanked him.

Department Logo – Last month a discussion took place about the current department logo being outdated as it has a picture of a swimmer and a campfire neither of which are offered in the parks. Mr. Ralston shared a new logo that is the one that is used on the Day Camp t-shirts. Everyone agreed that it was a big improvement, and should be adopted. A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the new logo and seconded by Mrs. Werney. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks Rules Update – In June, the Parks and Recreation Board discussed a complaint received by the Parks and Recreation Department about people smoking in Reis Park. Currently, while the Code of the Town of Somers prohibits smoking in Town buildings, there are no official rules prohibiting smoking in the Town parks, except in the Dog Park.

Last month, the Board reviewed information provided by Mr. Ralston, including Parks Rules and Regulations, Section 128-2. Section 128-2(l) provides, “Behavior which causes public nuisances, annoyance or harm regarding the enjoyment of park and recreation facilities and otherwise affects the health, and safety and welfare of those using the park is prohibited.” All agreed that vaping and smoking of tobacco products are plainly covered under the authority of this existing code.

Accordingly, the Board members present unanimously agreed by a motion made by Mr. Penzine and seconded by Mrs. Werney to propose that this provision be amended to add the language “such as smoking and/or vaping”. This would serve to clarify and eliminate any confusion whether these activities are allowed. If such an amendment to the existing rule is not feasible, then the Board would request that the Code be changed prohibiting smoking and/or vaping in all Town parks.

A Public Hearing is scheduled to take place this evening at the Town Board meeting regarding this topic.

In an effort to bring all of the rules and regulations in Chapter 128 of the Code of the Town of Somers up to date, Mr. Ralston recommended some additional changes. All members agreed with the suggestions.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston thanked the members for the compliments they gave him on the preparation of the 2019 budget.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Werney asked if dogs on leashes can be allowed in the Parks. A pilot program was created in Koegel Park to accommodate this request, but unfortunately was unsuccessful. In addition, she would like to see mountain bikes permitted. She will do some further research of neighboring Towns where they are able to be used.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

In November, the Board will meet on the 28th and there will not be a meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Board

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