

# Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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**Kevin Westerman**  
Chairman



## **MEETING MINUTES** **December 4, 2018**

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

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

Stephen Krug was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public present.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2018 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**

**2019 Fees Review** – A discussion took place about the 2019 fees being proposed. All were pleased with what was submitted.

**2019 Meeting Dates** – The Board will meet on the following dates in 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park: January 28, February 25, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, September 4, October 23 and December 4.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parks Master Plan Review Update** – Landscape Concepts is working on a landscape design for Bailey Park and Mr. Ralston should have it in time for the January meeting. A local scout will clear the area behind the flagpole in Van Tassell Park going toward the soccer field, as well as the stone wall as his Eagle Scout project. It will be used as a picnic area. All agreed that the next area to be looked at is Koegel Park. Mr. Papalia and Mr. Ralston will walk the area, as well as come up with suggestions for improvements to enhance the Park.

All are encouraged to start thinking about what can be done with the 11 acres behind the Reis Park tennis courts, which must be made available to County residents. Whatever is done will likely require significant funding and there are innumerable options and approaches to consider.

In connection with the Town's ownership of Lake Shenorock, the playground area and the nine surrounding acres, Mr. Ralston discussed grant money that is being used to create an 8' wide wood-chip path around three-quarters of the lake that will be used for maintenance. Ultimately, this path may also be usable as a walking path. Pursuant to Town code, the Lake cannot be used for swimming, ice fishing or ice skating.

**Men's Softball Eligibility Review Update** – Mr. Ralston provided the members with a second draft of eligibility to play on a Somers men's softball team. It was reviewed and discussed. There were no objections.

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

Mr. Ralston had no comments this evening.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Penzine has asked the Lions Club for help with cleaning up the Reis Park Fitness Trail, removing the stations and laying the milling. Mrs. Werney is opposed to the removal of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trail, asserting that it is a natural trail that should be cleaned up and kept that way. Mr. Ralston noted that the Parks Department doesn't have the resources to maintain that trail, as it is difficult to access. Since it is currently closed for maintenance, Chairman Westerman suggested that it be cleaned up, having roots and tripping obstructions addressed to the extent possible. Thereafter, the Board can again reassess whether removal is the most appropriate solution. Mr. Ralston will update everyone with regard to the clean-up progress in January.

Mr. Papalia would like to have some publicity done on the various projects that are being undertaken, such as the Fitness Trail clean-up. This should commence after at least one of the projects has been completed. All agreed. At the appropriate time, Mr. Ralston will contact The Somers Record.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Monday, January 28<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