

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **March 27, 2019**

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

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Stephen Krug, Chris McCormack, John Papalia, Don Penzine, Kevin Westerman, and John Zattola.

Michele Sanz and Michele Werney were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston and Councilman Tom Garrity were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2019, meeting. Mr. Papalia seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

As a result of construction projects scheduled for the Somers schools over the summer, the summer basketball clinic will not be able to be held. Mr. Westerman asked about a rainy-day location for summer camp. Mr. Ralston has been guaranteed space at the Somers Middle School.

NEW BUSINESS

Men's Softball Player Reinstatement Request – Twelve years ago a player in the Men's Softball League was "banned for life" due to an altercation with an umpire. That former player is now requesting to rejoin the Men's Softball League. Ultimately it is the Parks and Recreation Board's decision as to whether that can happen, but it is felt that deference should be given to the position that the Somers Softball Board would take on this request. In furtherance of this, Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman attended a meeting with the Men's Softball League Board of Directors and the former player. Although at the meeting the Softball Board expressed general support for second chances, and the former player's return, the Board felt it must first consult with the umpire involved, who was still umpiring games for the League. Therefore, the original investigation was reviewed, and the umpire involved was consulted. The umpire's response included that the only reason he decided to withdraw criminal charges against the player was because the player was banned from the Men's Softball League for life.

Therefore, he opposes the banned player's return. After their investigation, the Men's Softball Board unanimously voted against the player's reinstatement. The former player was advised that he still could meet with the Parks and Recreation Board to explain his position, and the Parks Board would vote on his request. The former player stated that he was not going to meet with the Parks Board and will not request a vote on the matter.

Reis Park Parking Lot – Mr. Penzine received a complaint from a Library employee about Somers High School students parking in the Reis Park lot in front of the Library, taking up spaces for their employees and patrons. A school bus is apparently picking up those students and bringing them to the High School. Mr. Ralston was unaware of the bus situation. He will talk to Library Director Andrew Farber about it and Councilman Garrity will go to the Park in the morning. Past discussions about parking signage took place. Mr. Papalia suggested that the parking lot be divided into sections and those sections be labeled as such for Library parking, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks Master Plan Review and Parks Projects Update – About a month ago, Mr. Ralston reached out to Landscape Concepts again regarding a landscape design for Bailey Park, but unfortunately, he didn't get a reply. Mr. Westerman will place a call to them asking for a response a week in advance of the next meeting.

The parks staff has removed the fitness stations, and are almost done removing the roots and tripping obstructions on the 1st and 2nd loops of the Fitness Trail. Although the Lions are willing to help spread the millings, they would still like to know why the Parks staff can't do this work. Mr. Ralston will discuss this further with Lion, Paul LaSpina.

The Scout who committed to clearing and creating a picnic area behind the flagpole and towards the soccer fields in Van Tassell Park, has aged out and is now ineligible to complete his Eagle Scout program. Mrs. Sanz will share some names of Scouts who might be able to take this project on as well as to build a new kiosk at Koegel Park so that the rules can be posted on it and replacement picnic table and bench tops.

Programs Update – Registration for Day and Tusker Trax Camps begins next week. Men's Softball begins the week of April 22nd with 17 teams participating.

Publicity Update – Once the projects proposed are near completion, Mr. Ralston will provide The Somers Record with highlights of those park improvements so they can do an article.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – The latest update on the Conservation Easement Modification is that the Town must review it and then let DEC know whether it is correct. The modification will be published in the DEC Environmental News Bulletin for public comment for 30 days. After that point, the modification can take effect. Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to Town Attorney Roland Baroni to see if anything new has been reported.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Papalia asked about the Concession Stand contract. The Town will collect \$10,000 for the first year with a 2% increase a year for 3 years.

Mr. Westerman asked if any other companies besides Baumann & Sons Buses, Inc. submitted a proposal for the day camp buses. The bid was sent to five providers and Baumann & Sons was the only company that submitted a bid.

In addition, Mr. Westerman wondered why the 2006 pick-up truck had to be replaced. The underside fell apart as it was rotted out. It will be replaced with a dump bed truck.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 24th 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