

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES June 26, 2019

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

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

Jim Boniello, Chris McCormack, and John Papalia were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, as well as Town Councilman Rich Clinchy were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting. Mrs. Sanz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Mr. Ralston reported that the spring turkey hunting season ended on May 31st and there was limited participation. Mr. Krug wondered if as a result, there will be a risk of having an overpopulation of turkeys. Mr. Ralston responded that only bow hunting is permitted and since the inception of the program not many turkeys have been taken.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Budget – Within a couple of weeks, Mr. Ralston will commence preparing the draft of the 2020 departmental budget. He welcomes any suggestions that the Board members may have. Some equipment will have to be purchased and the salaries for day camp staff increased. There will be some revenue loss due to some of the sports camps not running. It was clarified that any work done by Town of Somers staff member, Chuck Dammeyer, requires the purchase of materials only. Councilman Clinchy requested that consideration be given to adding dividers between the urinals in the men's room in Reis Park. Regarding the baseball fields, he also wondered if the infield soil study done a few years back could be revisited as it proposed using better soil in the infields that would result in better drainage and a potential cost savings in the long run. Mr. Ralston will redistribute the documents to the Board members.

Hidden Meadow Waiver Request – The Board is in receipt of a waiver request for Hidden Meadows, submitted by Planning and Engineering. As part of the submission, reference was made that the Town Engineer determined that grading of the area that included the future Town road should take place and be depicted as part of the site plan. All were happy to get confirmation of that.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 Summer Camps Update – Camp starts on July 1st. Many new activities and trips have been planned. All staff has been hired. There are 414 campers registered as compared to 443 last year and 367 in 2017. After the first week, additional campers will be accepted as space permits. 42 camp scholarships have been issued with all that applied accommodated.

Parks Master Plan Update – Mr. Boniello, Mr. Penzine and Mr. Westerman met with architect Joe Pajonas at Bailey Park to discuss improvement possibilities that will be inviting and attract the community. Mr. Pajonas had a lot of great inexpensive ideas which he will put in the form of a proposal and send to Mr. Ralston. The meeting was very encouraging and all look forward to his recommendations.

Independence Day Celebration Update – Plans are in order for the Independence Day Celebration scheduled for Saturday, June 29th at the Sebastian Capital property. Almost all of the tickets have been sold.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – Supervisor Morrissey reported today that DEC's Bill Rudge told him that the land swap was to be published in the DEC Environmental News Bulletin in early June for public comment for 30 days. After that point, the modification can take effect. He will follow up with him for an update.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

None of the Board members had any comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 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

