

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2019

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, Town Councilman Richard Clinchy and Town Councilman Tom Garrity were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Pat DeSena requested an update from the Board with regard to the trails in Reis Park. He attended a meeting a year ago, was assured that the work would be done, and in his opinion, no improvements were made. Mr. DeSena shared some pictures of the inner loop with the members which Mr. DeSena said showed evidence of rocks and parts of the trail that are completely blocked. He feels that these trails are a fantastic resource for the Town, they should be returned to their original state which requires a base of 4" of fine compacted gravel so that one can walk and jog on it. Mr. Ralston stated that the park staff has spent a considerable amount of time cutting, trimming, pruning and removing rocks and fallen tree branches. All were reminded that returning the trails to their original state would be a costly project, regardless of whether it is done in stages, and it would have to be done by professionals not Parks and Recreation staff with the help of the Somers Lions and Leos. The consensus is that the intent was for the trails to be in a natural setting and, as long as they are safe and passable, they should remain as such. Mr. Ralston will speak to the park staff in the morning concerning the items in the pictures that Mr. DeSena shared. Any obstructions will be taken care of immediately. Mr. Westerman asked that all Board members walk the trails as soon as they are able in an effort to assess the condition of the trails and to determine whether the trails can remain as is, or if they should be returned to their original state.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Zattola to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no questions about Mr. Ralston's report.

NEW BUSINESS

SYSO Board – Mr. Ralston expected members of the SYSO Board to attend the meeting this evening regarding a situation over the summer in Reis Park and scoreboard donations. No one was present.

Reis Park Playground Equipment and Water Fountain Replacement – The steel coated plastic sections on a large piece of playground equipment in Reis Park have to be replaced. The Parks staff will do the work. In addition, the water fountains by the playground, pavilion, Pony field, and upper Reis in Reis Park, as well as the fountain in Van Tassell Park, have to be replaced. Mr. Ralston's staff can do this work as well.

Shelter in Reis Park – Mr. Ralston shared a picture of a shelter that has been proposed to be placed above the Pony field on the way to the Wright-Reis Homestead, for the purposes of storing some equipment.

Summer Camp Positions – There are numerous key summer day camp positions available for next year. Mr. Ralston will utilize all possible resources available to spread the word in hopes that some viable candidates will apply.

OLD BUSINESS

2020 Budget Update – The proposed 2020 department budget prepared by Mr. Ralston was accepted as submitted by the Town Board. The increase requested and approved for summer camp salaries will hopefully result in getting older staff applying.

Parks Master Plan Review Update – All were issued copies of a proposal for improvements to Bailey Park submitted by architect Joe Pajonas, as well as the one from Landscape Concepts to use as a comparison. All agreed that Mr. Pajonas' proposal offers no description and is not client-specific. Mr. Westerman sent a follow up letter requesting clarity to which there has been no response. Additionally, Mary Ann Rivera from Landscape Concepts reached out to Mr. Ralston. Councilman Clinchy suggested the Town Planner be made aware of this. Mr. Ralston will make arrangements for he and Mr. Westerman to meet with her.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – This item was placed on the agenda of the October Town Board meeting. Town Attorney Roland Baroni reported that the Conservation Easement Modification will in fact happen and the Westchester County Planning Department has reviewed as well as approved the deed, but are waiting for New York State DEC approval.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

None of the Board members had any comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 4th 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