

# **Somers Parks & Recreation Board**

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**Kevin Westerman**  
Chairman



## **MEETING MINUTES** **February 26, 2020**

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

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

Jim Boniello and John Zattola were absent.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment was covered under New and Old Business.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Papalia to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **MR. RALSTON'S REPORT**

Mr. Westerman was happy to see that the registrations for the Dog Park increased from 44 to 87. Mr. Ralston will get a copy of the report to make some comparisons to last year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Eagle Scout Project Proposal** – Garrett Cassin, a Scout from Troop 376, met with the Board to discuss his Eagle Scout Project of creating a spectator area at the corner of the soccer field in Van Tassell Park. The area will be cleared and recycled asphalt millings put down. He hopes to start the project in mid-April. It will provide an ideal spot for folks to bring their lawn chairs so they can watch the games or a place to gather before and/or after games. Garrett and Mr. Ralston have met to discuss this project. All were in favor of the proposal.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parks Master Plan Review Update** – Mr. Penzine, Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman met with Mary Ann Rivera of Landscape Concepts at Bailey Park regarding a proposal for improvements. Ms. Rivera presented her proposal to the Board this evening. It includes a

main community patio that is 4,400 square feet, in front of the gazebo, with a garden consisting of low maintenance perennials and shrubs behind it; three family gathering patio areas that are 600 square feet each; a natural stone walkway that leads to the Towne Centre at Somers parking lot; and fencing in front of the trees, and houses along the property. Estimates for all the work were provided. It is the hope to start the project in September and have it completed in time for the Veteran's Day Parade. The project can be done in phases. Once a budget is established, Ms. Rivera will provide guidance for the specifications to be included in the required bidding process. The Board was quite pleased with the proposal. After Ms. Rivera left, a further discussion ensued. Mr. Ralston has been asked to follow up with Ms. Rivera concerning the following: prevailing wage; landscape lighting; natural stone walkways along the Route 100 and 202 sides of the property; and handicap accessibility.

**2020 Summer Day Camp** – The only key administrative position left to be filled for Day Camp is a Nurse. A rainy-day spot has not yet been secured. Mr. Ralston hopes to get a response from the Somers Central School District by Friday. The water slide will be an offered activity again this summer. Hopefully when the conservation easement modification is completed and that area is developed, a splash pad will be included.

**Historic Properties Board Elephant Request** – Mr. Westerman reported that the memo sent from the Parks and Recreation Board to the Historic Properties Board about the replacement of the Old Bet statue was discussed at their meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Westerman reiterated the Parks and Recreation Board's request for three quotes for the artist work and Supervisor Morrissey strongly agreed. If the Somers Historical Society takes the lead in the fundraising campaign and contributions are given to them, technically three quotes are not necessary, but both Supervisor Morrissey and Mr. Westerman still support this concept as it is good business practice. Supervisor Morrissey has requested that Mr. Ralston secure at least one other quote. He has also offered the website as a means to advertise for residents to join the Fundraising Committee. The Parks and Recreation Board will also have representation on the Committee. The majority of the Parks and Recreation Board members are still adamant about only giving money after the \$20,000.00 for the artist's work is raised elsewhere. Their concern is that if they give the money up front, and the money for the foundry work is not raised, then the \$20,000.00 will have been wasted.

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

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Westerman asked what work is done as part of the annual tune up of the Omni courts. In addition, Mr. Westerman had some concerns after reviewing the Reis Park playground safety fencing RFP. In his opinion, the language of indemnification agreement doesn't apply under certain circumstances that could potentially make the Town subject to liability. Proposed curative language was shared, and Mr. Ralston will follow up on this with the Town Attorney.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 25<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