

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

PO Box 46 Somers, New York 10589

OFF: (914)-232-8441

FAX: (914)-232-8548

Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **May 26, 2021**

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

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

Jim Boniello, and Michele Werney were absent.

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

The meeting was held via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of May 5, 2021 monthly meeting as submitted. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Papalia to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021 special meeting as submitted. Mr. Krug seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Mr. Papalia asked about pickle ball. Residents continue to reserve the courts for pick-up games on the weekends. Mr. Ralston ordered a template so the Parks staff can begin painting full lines on the Sport Court. He also ordered nets that can be borrowed during office hours. It is the hope to provide courts to be used for pickle ball during the Somers High School tennis team off seasons. Mr. Westerman said once the land swap comes to fruition it would be an ideal opportunity to add dedicated pickle ball courts.

NEW BUSINESS

New Playground Equipment Concerns – Mr. Ralston received an email from a resident concerned about the safety of some of the new playground equipment. He spoke with her

personally, reviewed the specifications for installation and explained that the equipment was installed with even stricter requirements than those recommended by the manufacturer and in compliance with the ASTM Public Playground Safety Guidelines.

Mr. Johnson also received an email about concerns regarding the bigger swings at the playground. He too spoke with the resident and no additional follow-up is required at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Day Camp Updates – As of today, ninety-one campers have been registered. New guidelines from the State have been received and the WCDOH will be scheduling a meeting to review them. There is enough staff to cover the number of registrants, but some additional counselors could be used and a nurse has still not been hired.

Bailey Park Project Update – Mary Ann Rivera, of Landscape Concepts submitted the final proposal for Bailey Park. Mr. Boniello and Mr. Ralston met to tweak the proposal and it was submitted to the Town Board. Mr. Ralston will request that this item be placed on the June 3rd Town Board Work Session agenda for review and comment with input from he and the Parks and Recreation Board.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston thanked the Board again for their continued support.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Sanz asked how things were going at the basketball courts. Mr. Westerman was there on Sunday and all looked good, he also reviewed some of the videos and there were no issues. Mr. Zattola was at the courts twice and everything looked fine. Mr. Ralston said that only 5 have registered, which is not a requirement, but a request. Many are playing, but not putting their masks on when they are done playing. Mr. Penzine wants to know why there are rules if they are not being followed. Mr. Krug asked if there were any complaints about the rules not being followed and there were not. Mr. Westerman was initially concerned about the area becoming a hangout for groups of kids, but that has not happened so far. The people play, sit out for a bit, take a drink and return to play almost immediately, with barely any time to put their masks back on. Mr. Penzine said then maybe the rules are not needed then. Mrs. Sanz said if the rules are not going to be enforced then they are not needed, people are also complaining on Facebook about them. Mr. Krug said that the rules should continue, as they give us the latitude for enforcement if things get out of control and, if they don't exist, we are not complying with the State law. Mr. Zattola said if things are not out of control, then we should leave things as is. Mr. Papalia urged that this move protocol continue as-is, all want the courts to be used, which is being done with no issues. Mr. Clinchy said that if there is an uptick in COVID cases in Somers, then it would be appropriate to reassess. All agreed that it is best to continue to monitor, but Mr. Penzine still wishes the rules would be followed and enforced. Mr. Ralston will continue to keep everyone updated if there are any changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Board

cc: Parks and Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Town Board
Town Clerk