



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting July 14, 2025

Present:

Fran Frattini – Chairman
Stephen Frattini
Stan Greenbaum
T.J. Fazzone
Kris Fazzone
Rachel Booth
John Wrenn – Director
JodiAnn Eure – Program Coordinator

Absent:

Bill Teman

Guests: Jill Finch, Erez Zohar

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:16pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

1. Jill Finch requested use of the Town Park Pavilion on August 17 from 10:00am to 3:00pm for the Sherman Congregational Church's annual concert. There was a discussion, including the subject of waiving the fee for the event. John Wrenn noted that there was another concert scheduled for the same day but it did not begin until 4:00pm so there was no conflict.

Stephen Frattini made a motion to approve the use of the Town Park on August 17, 2025 from 10:00am to 3:00 pm for the Congregational Church's annual concert and to waive the fee.

Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Minutes from June 9, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission as written was made by Stephen Frattini, seconded by Rachel Booth and was voted with all in favor.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation/Updates:

There were no new Eagle Scout projects to consider.

Public Comment:

Erez Zohar presented information about pickleball lessons that were underway at the pickleball courts at Volunteer Park. There were 17 individuals registered for lessons which started two weeks previous to the meeting. One court was being used for lessons. Interested parties contact the instructor directly to set up a time for the lessons which would be in off-peak hours only. The cost for the lessons is \$40 for the group of four players, with the \$4.00 for the 10% that goes back to the Park and Recreation Department. Jim Vallesky is the instructor. John Wrenn had worked with Mr. Zohar on formulating these lessons and has already received a certificate of insurance from the instructor. The lessons are published in the pickleball APP.

Don Lowe stopped in at 7:50 PM and left shortly thereafter.

There was a discussion of paperwork, including a waiver, for the lessons as well as using MyRec for registration. Stephen Frattini described the challenges of using MyRec for programs like his hockey/open skate activities that are for extended periods of time with a number of choices for enrollees. It was noted that there should be a place on registration forms for getting permission from participants to collect data and market to them with Town of Sherman activities.

Mr. Zohar thanked the Commission for putting up sign with the rules at the pickleball courts and noted that it had helped. Mr. Zohar also requested the installation of an umbrella at the courts as there is no shade there at all. There was a discussion, including different types of umbrellas or canopies that might be used, possible vandalism, installation, funding and weather issues. There was a further discussion about potential wind damage to an umbrella as well as the impact on Public Works if the Town had to put it up and down each day. Also discussed was the option of the Town Crew drilling a hole in one of the picnic tables and pickleball players bringing their own umbrella each time they played. There was further discussion about Town facilities that might need shaded areas provided.

Stephen Frattini made a motion to approve a hole being drilled into one of the picnic tables at the pickleball courts to accommodate an umbrella. Stan Greenbaum seconded and the motion passed with 4 in favor and one (T.J. Fazzone) opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohar requested action be taken on the pebbles that are on the entryway to the pickleball courts. He noted that the pebbles get carried into the courts on the player's shoes and scratch the surface. Kris Fazzone noted that the Town Crew had a plan to pave the entryway eventually and it may be done within the week. Mr. Zohar also requested that Park and Recreation purchase and install one or two paddle racks. They are typically installed outside the court and are used by players to illustrate who goes next by the position of their paddle on the rack. Mr. Zohar will send a photo of existing rack to John Wrenn. Mr. Zohar inquired about the possibility of Park and Recreation installing a backboard for practice at the pickleball courts. It was noted that such an item could possibly be included in the 2026-2027 budget and might be able to be installed by the company that resurfaces the courts.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini advised that she had heard that someone would like to sell donuts and coffee at the pickleball courts on the weekends. There was a discussion. It was noted that the Park and

Recreation ordinance covers this for “vendors may visit parks not more than twice a day for a total of one-hour.” This will cover the vendor if there is formal request.

There was a discussion about Munch Meadows and the need for a kiosk/sign at the facility. It was noted that if a kiosk could be installed it should have a history of Munch Meadows on one side and information about pollinator plants and perhaps a map. Kris Fazzone noted that the goal was to keep the area filled with native plants and mow it only twice a year. Signs for kiosk can possibly be designed by community members, Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation. Fran Frattini noted that she had received an offer from a community member to finance the kiosk/sign project.

Rachel Booth noted that she had been playing tennis at the courts at Veterans Field and there were people playing pickleball. Ms. Booth noted that Park and Recreation needs to get rid of the blended lines when the courts get resurfaced. There needs to be a sign that reads “No Pickleball on Tennis Courts. Please use Pickleball Courts at Volunteer Field”.

Kris Fazzone described efforts to find a company to resurface both the tennis courts and the basketball courts. Estimates for the basketball to just fill in the cracks and smooth out the surface and for the tennis courts was about \$28,000. Discussion that on the basketball court if only the side of fence that faced the soccer field was left intact, it would be effective and could save money. The process was discussed and it appears that the resurfacing could be done in 90-degree weather but would need 3-4 days after project is completed before they can be played on. The need to go to a Town meeting to approve the expenditure was discussed. It was also noted that it might be a good idea for 2026 to announce that park passes will be checked on July 4th weekends at all courts.

It was also mentioned that the tennis courts and the basketball court projects are separate projects that are not linked together. The fence removal, resurfacing with paving and painting of basketball court was discussed and an estimated cost of this project was about \$50,000. There was an estimate for renovating the beach cottage roof and Veterans Field gazebo roof of \$15,000 for both. Other quotes are needed.

Program Coordinator Report:

JodiAnn Eure shared her report including the following about upcoming programs:

- a. Pilates will start up again on Saturday mornings in Charter Hall on 8/9.
- b. Junior Chef Camp # 1 is full– 8 participants.
- c. Junior Chef Camp # 2 has 3 participants enrolled but will continue to be advertised.
- d. Music Time with Miss Cheryl – “Lil Music Makers” starts in September and runs for 8 weeks.
- e. Music Time with Miss Cheryl – “Family Jam Saturday Classes” –one per month to finish out 2025 Children's series.
- f. Monica, the Children's librarian, will run a program for children on August 6th. It will be a Veterans’ Field story read along and a park scavenger hunt. Everyone will receive a prize.

Current programs include:

- a. Pilates in July had been canceled due to low enrollment and is starting back up in August.
- b. Hockey had 27 kids, 11 adults full time, and 3 for single skates, with a few more participants still to be added in to the totals.

There was a discussion about the use of MyRec for registering for the hockey program. Stephen Frattini described the challenges. These included the inaccuracy of some of the data due to a variety of issues like the following: some people finding MyRec confusing to use; in-person cash payments to the instructor getting into the MyRec system along with pertinent participant information; the drop-in nature of the program; efficiently collecting waivers from every participant. Possible solutions were explored.

An August hockey program was discussed. It was noted that this would only be feasible if participants pay in person or by using MyRec with a deadline of the last week of July. The program will need 35 total skaters to proceed and bring price to \$75.00 per person for 4 skate times of 1 ½ hours each.

Dr. Frattini also advised that there would be no Park and Recreation hockey program in the fall due to South Kent School's own hockey programming. The skating program will be reviewed in the months after summer programs end and will be reevaluated for the future.

Director's Report:

John Wrenn reported the following:

- a. John Wrenn shared that Park and Recreation had donated \$200.00 to Matthew's Hearts of Hope in memory of Matthew Hatcher.
- b. There was a mix up with the buses for the senior camp's trip to Quassapaug which was scheduled for Wednesday but the bus company had it for Thursday when the children did go. But as the children usually purchase lunch on the field trip, Mr. Wrenn bought them all pizza with \$236.00 from field trip money.
- c. There had been two complaints from the same person that someone had blocked access to their kayak rack by parking too close to the rack. Mr. Wrenn will get "No parking" signs and Kris Fazzone will install them.
- d. Senior Camp has 100 children enrolled; Junior Camp has 77.
- e. Swim lessons have 32 in session I, 33 in session II, and 27 in session III.
- f. There had been an electrical problem at the JCC which caused the alarm to go off. The fire trucks arrived and the counselors did a good job evacuating to the back parking lot according to their training and got kids into their cars to stay out of the heat while the alarm was investigated.
- g. Swimming lessons today had been canceled from 3:00 on due to intermittent thunder during the afternoon.
- h. The checking account report for June was shared.
- I. ASP did well for the 2024-2025 school year and will continue for the coming school year as far as Park and Recreation is concerned.
- j. Kris Fazzone and the Town Crew distributed millings to smooth off the camp drop-off and pick-up areas at JCC.
- k. Traffic patterns for entering and exiting the JCC for Junior Camp were discussed and are being handled by camp staff.

Facilities Reports/Maintenance and Repairs:

- a. There was no update for boat docks.
- b. Stephen Frattini gave a detailed update on the progress of the Scout House repair project:
 - Scout House had been emptied of all items that had to go.
 - sills had been examined, had decayed beyond repair and were replaced.
 - all siding had been removed on the storage side of building.

- entire building will be insulated.
- the curved plaster ceiling was found to be structurally sound and will not be touched.
- mice have been cleared out of building.

Overall, the project has shifted to mostly restoration versus preservation and is making good progress, according to Dr. Frattini. He described a possible plan to remove all the mismatched tables and chairs with a built-in bench system plus new tables and chairs that matched, stored/stacked easily and were appropriate for a variety of programs that may be offered in the Scout House. Budgeting issues were also discussed. Dr. Frattini described the goal for the Scout House to be a large multi-purpose room that was mostly empty, storage space for the Scouts remains in the separate front area, somewhat less Scout memorabilia on the walls, with possible programming by other community groups sharing the space. Creating a Google calendar for scheduling use of Scout House along with a possible name change were also discussed.

Old Business/New Business:

- The 2025/2026 budget year began July 1st.
- Park and Recreation office is now located in the Assessor's office in Town Hall due to the construction project at the school.

T.J. Fazzone suggested that for the next Commission meeting, the group think about its vision for Colonial Field including topics including but not limited to a walking trail, bocce ball courts, shuffleboard and coordination with building of Senior Center.

There was a discussion about possibility of Park and Recreation office going into the new Senior Center and what that would look like. It was noted that many Commission members were in favor of Park and Recreation having the stability of having its own independent building with office and program space, instead of being moved around from space to space so often. Flex rooms with removable dividers were also discussed.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Rachel Booth made a motion to adjourn the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Stephen Frattini and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission regular meeting is scheduled on August 11, 2025

*These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved.
at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission*