



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting September 8, 2025

Present:

Fran Frattini – Chairman
Stan Greenbaum
T.J. Fazzone
Kris Fazzone (By phone until 7:58pm, then in person)
John Wrenn, Director (arrived 7:55pm)

Absent:

Bill Teman
Stephen Frattini
Rachel Booth
JodiAnn Eure. Prog. Coor.

Guests: There were no guests.

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:19pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

There were no applications to consider.

Minutes from July 14, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

It was noted that the August meeting had been canceled.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting as written was made by T.J. Fazzone, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and was voted with all in favor. Minutes approved as written.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation/Updates:

There were no new Eagle Scout projects to consider.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Correspondence:

1. Fran Frattini had emailed a copy of the Annual Report for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to the Commission for review. There was a discussion, with compliments to Mrs. Frattini and no requests for any changes.
2. Fran Frattini described a letter that had been forwarded to Park and Recreation from the BOS. The letter was from Roland Hanley, a resident of Holiday Point. Mr. Hanley objects to the plans for the new boat docks, stating his feeling that the plan does not allow enough space in the channel. John Wrenn had replied to the B.O.S., noting that Park and Recreation was following guidelines from First Light. It was noted that the plan included keeping non-motorboats like kayaks and canoes at their own end of the docks without wakes to deal with. Mr. Hanley had requested a meeting with the B.O.S. and a Park and Recreation representative at the beach. The general consensus was that the approval for the project was at least a year away and it would be premature to schedule a meeting at this time. It was further noted that there will be information sessions for the public with time for Q&A before the project proceeds. If there are still concerns at that point, a meeting can be arranged.

Program Coordinator Report:

Fran Frattini shared JodiAnn Eure's August/September report with the Commission.

Current Programs:

- Hockey: did not run for August due to an insufficient number of registrants – we needed over 20 families to meet the price of the rink.
- Sherman Summer Soccer Camp was well attended: 12 participants.
- Children's Scavenger Hunt, in conjunction with the Sherman Library, was successful – a little over 20 participants. The kids enjoyed running through Veteran's Park and collecting stickers at its various activities and structures. They received a pair of sunglasses that said Sherman as their prize.
- Pilates Series 14 started and is currently over. Victoria also offered a free Tai Chi/Qigong class on 8/23 at 8:15.
- Junior Chef Camp # 1 was full– 8 participants, Junior Chef Camp # 2 – 5 participants. Well attended, well-organized, great reviews (and delicious!)

Upcoming programs:

- MTWMC – Lil Music Makers starts in September and runs for 8 weeks – it is full. Cheryl has added another session at 10:30, currently 5 participants.
 - Fleshing out a Holidays Lights Extravaganza with The Commission for the Arts. More to come in the October and November meetings.
 - A proposed Crochet Club run by Kristine Ross. Details to be worked out.
- There was a discussion about this new offering, with the Commission agreeing it would be a great class to offer.

T.J Fazzone made a motion to approve the Crochet Club activity with details to be worked out. Kris Fazzone seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.

It was noted that Stephen Frattini cannot head up the Tiny Tots soccer program but Dr. Frattini has arranged for some of the program's assistants to take over his role. The program will still run, starting on September 27, running for 8 weeks weather permitting. The fee will be \$50.00 per child and no tee-shirts will be purchased for this program. The original proposed start date of September 20 was problematic due to the Historical Society's Reenactment being on that same day.

Director's Report:

John Wrenn reported the following:

- a. John Wrenn verbally shared the checking account information with the Commission. Mr. Wrenn noted that there were still a few outstanding invoices from Summer Camp Field Trips that will need to be paid. There was a discussion about the possible purchase of items for the department including a small work vehicle for park and recreation maintenance.
- b. Summer programs went well. There was still an outstanding bus trip fee that Mr. Wrenn had not received adequate paperwork on.
- c. ASP will continue to run this school year and will be held in a classroom as will the Early Bird program. Sign-up can be done on MyRec now with the latest sign-up deadline at 1:00 the day of desired attendance for ASP and the night before for Early Bird program.

Facilities Reports/Maintenance and Repairs:

- a. There was no update for boat docks since First Light was not finished with the approval process for the project.
- b. Scout House renovations are looking good, although not completely finished.
- c. Resurfacing the basketball courts and the tennis courts will be put off until next summer. The school will be using both areas for gym classes this school year. In addition, estimates are still being sought after for one company to do both resurfacing projects for a better deal. It was noted that crevices need to be fixed no matter what process was chosen.
- d. There is a Town meeting scheduled on September 17, 2025 to vote on the roof for the gazebo and the roof on the summer office beach cottage among a number of other items.
- e. In other areas, Veteran's Field saw lots of clean-up; the pavilion at the Town Park is fine; wood chips were placed on the bank at Volunteer; extra drainage was installed on the west side of pickleball courts so water build-up should not be a problem anymore; Mr. Wrenn is getting prices for a few repairs to some dock slips; tree work has been done and more is in progress down by the CLA building and the CLA is handling the roof repair of the Town building they occupy.

There was a discussion about tearing down the old well house at the Town Park next to the CLA office. Since it has no historical significance and the actual well is next to it, not in it, it was determined that tearing it down would be appropriate. It was also noted that 6-8 round tables are now in the pavilion at the Town park and came from the school cafeteria. Some of the other rectangular picnic tables from the pavilion were relocated to other parts of the park. All the tables will be stored under the cover of the pavilion for the winter season. There is now a stainless-steel prep table in the prep area of the pavilion for use by whomever rents the pavilion.

Kris Fazzone reported that the majority of the Town Crew's time was spent on Park and Recreation facilities. The Commission expressed its gratitude.

There was also a discussion about potential clean-up at the Orchards and Upper Meadow at Volunteer Park. It was noted that a Briarwood Road resident has been mowing and using a section of the Upper Meadows. It was the consensus of the Commission that they were glad the

resident was enjoying the area but it will send a reminder that the land is Town property under the direction of Park and Recreation.

Old Business/New Business:

a. There was no update on 2025/2026 budget.

b. Park and Recreation office is now located in the Assessor's office in Town Hall due to the construction project at the school. There had been a suggestion of moving the office to the Scout House. However, there is no secure area there as well as no proper phone and computer hook-ups necessary for the office.

There was a further discussion about the proposed new Senior Center, and the possibility of the Park and Recreation office being included in the plan. It was noted that many aspects of the plan could be modified to better suit the property, other groups using Colonial Field, the needs of the community as well as the needs of Park and Recreation. The consensus was that other Town agencies would have valuable input if asked to collaborate. It also was mentioned that some parts of the plan may encroach upon areas designated as dedicated open space. Suggestions were made for better placement of the building, its orientation on the property, parking lot, and areas that could potentially accommodate recreational activities like shuffleboard, bocce or a modified basketball court.

John Wrenn advised that the Chair/Co-Chair of the Senior Center Building Committee (SCBC) expressed an interest in meeting with the Commission. It was noted that the Commission would like to invite the SCBC to attend the October Commission meeting. It was also noted that there is a referendum scheduled on December 13, 2025 focused on the Senior Center proposal. (Note: First Selectman Lowe facilitated a meeting on September 13th for this purpose between him, Park & Rec representatives and the SCBC representatives.)

c. There was a discussion about the annual Halloween Bash. Fran Frattini was in contact with that event's organizer, Barbara Richardson, who advised she was in the planning stages and would not need Park and Recreation's involvement. Fran Frattini had suggested to Mrs. Richardson that she contact Charter Hall to see if her preferred date was available.

d. There was a discussion about the September 13, 2025 annual softball tournament. Kris Fazzone noted that the participants would like to add a third field to play on so that the games would end earlier in the day. Mr. Fazzone also added that he had ordered simple signs for Veterans Field parking, especially considering the school drop-off and pick-up that is happening there during the school construction project.

e. There was a discussion about creating a 5–10-year plan for Park and Recreation properties and activities. T.J. Fazzone noted that progress at the Town Park and Colonial park were in limbo due to proposed dock project and Senior Center project, respectively. Other ideas for the long-term plan were discussed, including a bathroom at Volunteer Park, much like the one at Veterans Field. Adding disk golf, exercise trail, bocce court, additional soccer, baseball or softball fields were all discussed.

Mrs. Frattini reminded everyone that the October and November Commission meetings will be held on the first Monday of those months, October 6, 2025 and November 3, 2025, due to a holiday and a conflict.

With no further business to come before the Commission, T.J. Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Kris Fazzone and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.

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 October 6, 2025

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