



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

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

Present:

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

Absent:

Bill Teman

Guests: Patrick Dillett

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:16pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

There were no applications for use of the pavilion.

Minutes from November 3, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting as written was made by Stan Greenbaum, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and was voted with all in favor. Stephen Frattini abstained. Minutes accepted as written.

Rachel Booth noted that she had submitted her resignation from the Commission due to work conflicts. Ms. Booth introduced her husband, Patrick Dillett, who will take her place on the Commission when appointed by the BOS. The Commission members welcomed Mr. Dillett and it was noted that he will begin his term in January 2026.

Fran Frattini noted that Kris Fazzone's, T.J. Fazzone's and Stan Greenbaum's terms were up at the end of the year and Mrs. Frattini had advised the First Selectman that they all wish to remain on the Commission.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation/Updates:

There were no new Eagle Scout projects to consider. Fran Frattini noted that a Sherman resident, Ellie Garcia, who is a Scout in a New Fairfield troop, would like to do her Eagle Scout project in Sherman. It was suggested that a kiosk at Munch Meadows would be a possible project, Mrs. Frattini noted that she had received an offer of a donation for this sign. Stephen Frattini will remain the Commission contact person for Eagle Scout projects. Upgrading trails between the Town Park and Colonial Field was also discussed as a possible Scout project in the future.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini reported that the CLA has asked for support from the Park and Recreation Commission for their 2027 Lake Steward Program. There was a discussion, including that the requested support took the form of giving the CLA permission to inspect boats at the Town Park, that the program has been working well so far and that support had already been granted for the 2026 season of this program. It was the consensus of the Commission to support the CLA's 2027 Lake Steward Program. Mrs. Frattini will send a letter of support.

There was a discussion of reports of algae bloom in the lake, including the history of previous algae blooms and the involvement of the Health Department.

Program Coordinator Report:

JodiAnn Eure reported the following:

Current programs:

1. MTWMC – "Lil Music Makers: Celebrate Everything" is a 3-week program.
2. Mindful Movements, a gentle yoga and meditation class taught by Jillian Rooney, has 8 participants, is held in Charter hall and will be rescheduling its first class that had to be canceled due to snow.

Upcoming programs:

1. MTWMC: "Hickory Dickory Dock" program begins on Monday January 5, has 3 registered in one class and 2 in the other and is currently being advertised.
2. One Day Junior Chef Cooking Camps will be held on Monday, December 29 and Tuesday, December 30 for 2 individual cooking camps. Camp will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm each day. Cooking is taught by Mary Jo Dix. So far there are 2 registered for the first class and 1 for the second.
3. Holiday Lights house sign-ups are closed and there are 10 houses registered. Addresses of participating houses are on the website. The Holiday Lights Tour is on December 13. The Sherman Church will be singing, discounted hot chocolate from Sacred Grounds will be available and free cookies from the American Pie will all be on the Green from 5:00pm – 6:00pm. The winners will be chosen by a panel consisting of Don Lowe, representing the Selectmen, Rachel Booth for the Park and Recreation Commission, and Christy Bonaiuto for the Arts Council. December 19 is the day the winners will be picked.
4. Pilates with Victoria Gentile begins on December 12 at 4:30pm and registration is open.

Stephen Frattini added two items related to programs. Dr. Frattini noted that Tiny Tot Soccer coaches stepped in while he was unable to be involved in the program this Fall and those coaches did a great job in his absence. In addition, Dr. Frattini reported that 2 of the coaches were interested in continuing with an indoor Tiny Tots program for 2- to 5-year-olds but with the school being under construction, there seemed to be no appropriate place to hold such a program. Options were discussed, including spaces in area schools. John Wrenn asked Stephen Frattini to find out more of the details of what the coaches wanted as far as times and days preferred and then Mr. Wrenn will make some calls to area facilities.

Dr. Frattini also noted that Sherman Park and Recreation still has a contract with the South Kent School rink and suggested offering a few open skating dates. There was a discussion, including the possibilities of offering one session per month, charging a per session fee to cover cost of rental and a weekday afternoon as likely availability of the rink. Efforts will be made to gauge the interest of the community and proceed from there with planning.

The possibility of open swim sessions will be explored as well.

John Wrenn noted that skiing at Thunder Ridge will be coming in mid-December. Thunder Ridge has changed its policies for use of the facility so enough details were not yet available to begin registration.

Director's Report:

John Wrenn reported the following:

- a. John Wrenn shared the checking account information with the Commission.
- b. The Final Summer programs report was shared with the Commission: swim lessons had 32, 10 and 28 participants in the three-session offered, overall not quite covering the expenses. Senior Camp had 113 total participants and did well financially. Junior Camp also did well with 78 total participants. Overall the summer programs did very well. It was noted that the invoice for second half of the tent rental fees for Senior Camp has not yet been received.
- c. ASP is doing well with an average of 4 children per day. Early Bird program has 1 or 2 children per day. Sherman Cares assists with some program fees.
- d. Mr. Wrenn had spent 2 days at a Zoom Access Audit and Transition Plan workshop with Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG). There will be more meetings to follow. There will be a WestCOG tour of some Town facilities, like Town Garage, Volunteer Park and the Town Park, among others. One objective of the tour may be to consider ADA compliance, as well as funds that can be matched to needed upgrades. There was a review of previous plans regarding sidewalks and connectivity between Park and Recreation facilities.
- e. It was noted that boat dock fees in New Milford are \$1,850.00, in New Fairfield they are \$1,800.00 and Sherman fees are \$1,500.00. It was further noted that the 2026-2027 budget proposal would contain an increase to \$1,600.00 for Sherman boat dock fees. Mr. Wrenn noted that all but 3 people have paid for their boat docks and those 3 were called and they have until this Saturday to get their money in.
- f. There had been no more complaints about the bathrooms. Mr. Wrenn will keep checking the facility.

Facilities Reports/Maintenance and Repairs:

- a. There was no update for boat docks from First Light.

b. The Scout House building renovations were discussed and they are mostly completed. Still needed is an indoor/outdoor rug inside the entryway. There was a discussion about removing the bench inside the Scout House and purchasing folding tables and chairs. Styles, cost, amounts of each and storage racks were discussed. Kris Fazzone will look into options and share information with the Commission. It was noted that scheduling of the Scout House for community groups might be set up on MyRec.

It was also noted that the Scout House is a Park and Recreation facility. Use of it requires a formal request and no alterations or modifications can be made until further notice from Park and Recreation. John Wrenn is authorized to approve use requests per a Facilities Use Form. Specific rules and regulations on treatment of the building need to be developed and shared with all users in order to preserve all the work that has been done. Bulletin boards, programmable locks and handle-type doorknobs were discussed. There was a discussion about possibly moving the Scouts' trailer from near the Scout House to the Town Garage.

Rachel Booth made a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$3,000.00 for tables, chairs and mud mats for the Scout House. T.J Fazzone seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

There was a discussion about the large table that is in the Scout House and that it will not be needed after folding tables and chairs are purchased. The large table did not hold any historical significance and it was suggested that it be thrown away along with the large bench from the Scout House while there was a dumpster on site. Stephen Frattini noted a few items that were not completed from the original bid spec for the Scout House renovation, like certain outlets and hardware on the windows.

c. There is no work being done on the basketball court and the tennis court resurfacing at this time.

d. The pavilion is all cleaned up and picnic tables, as well as folding cafeteria tables, are all under cover of the pavilion. The docks on the beach are Park and Recreation's and the CLA's.

Kris Fazzone noted that the pipe covering the top of the fence at Volunteer Field is damaged. Mr. Wrenn will look into replacing it. Mr. Fazzone also shared a photo and information about a bench made from a repurposed wind turbine made by a company called Noble Winds. This bench was suggested as the memorial bench for Ann Balmford at Volunteer Park near the pond. There was a discussion, including that the bench will not need anchoring, come in a stone color and is also considered a work of art. Mr. Fazzone will meet with a representative from Noble Winds about the bench. It was noted that \$5,000.00 had already been donated to pay for the memorial bench. The consensus was to purchase the bench from Noble Winds. There was a discussion about future plans for the maintenance of Schimpf Pond.

Old Business/New Business:

a. Fran Frattini reminded the Commission that the 2026-2027 budget proposal will be reviewed in January. Mrs. Frattini asked that each Commission member make a list of items they would like to see included in the budget proposal.

b. Mrs. Frattini reported that the new Senior Center was voted in. Therefore, the Park and Recreation office will be relocated to the current Senior Center when the new Senior Center project is completed. It was further noted that Park and Recreation and the Social Services office will share the building. Mrs. Frattini reviewed all of the various locations that Park and Recreation has inhabited over the years and noted that the Commission's goal is that the department have a permanent home.

- c. Fran Frattini noted that there had been a suggestion to have a workshop or two at 6:00pm before a regular Commission meeting to dedicate to the topic of the long-range plan, specifically for facilities and grounds improvement and development. There was a discussion and it was decided to have a workshop at 6:00pm on the night of the February and/or March regular Commission meetings. It was noted that a workshop required no minutes to be taken and no public invited. Mrs. Frattini summed up what had been in the 1998 long range plan and most of the 15 items had been accomplished within 10-12 years.
- d. Mrs. Frattini reminded everyone that the January and February meetings will begin at 7:30pm, not 7:15pm.

There was a discussion about Colonial Field and the planned location of the new Senior Center. There was concern that there had not been a comprehensive consideration of the existing Park and Recreation facilities at Colonial Field. The topics of traffic flow, parking lot location, bathroom access and septic issues were discussed. There was further discussion about the loss of the two small soccer fields due to the new center's location. Also discussed were possible ways to modify Colonial Field to be in harmony with the new Senior Center, perhaps with possible features such as walking trails, a bocci court, a pavilion and a dog park that could be enjoyed by seniors as well as the entire community. Mr. Wrenn will talk with Don Lowe about a timeline for the new Senior Center as well as helping to facilitate a comprehensive plan that will serve people using Colonial Field as well as those using the Senior Center.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Stephen Frattini made a motion to adjourn the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.

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 January 12, 2026

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