



SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Minutes of Regular Meeting August 10, 2026

Present:

Fran Frattini – Chairman
T.J. Fazzone
Kris Fazzone
Stan Greenbaum
John Wrenn – Director
Don Lowe – First Selectman

Absent:

Stephen Frattini
Patrick Dillett
Bill Teman

Guests: There were no guests.

Call to order:

Chairman Fran Frattini called the August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:17pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:

There were no pavilion or facilities applications that needed Commission approval.

Minutes from July 13, 2026 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 regular meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission as written was made by Kris Fazzone, seconded by T.J. Fazzone and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation/Updates:

There were no updates on Community Projects or Eagle Scout projects.

However, there was a discussion about the rules and regulations for the use of the Scout House.

Don Lowe noted that the Sherman Playhouse at times needs to use the Scout House for small rehearsals or intermission refreshments. It was also noted that all reservations for use of the Scout House needs to go through Park and Recreation for approval. Once reservations are approved the space will be reserved in a Google/MyRec calendar, which is almost ready for use. This calendar

should help avoid any conflicts for use of the facility. John Wrenn noted that there had been a test run of the Google/MyRec calendar and it worked.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Correspondence:

1. A memorandum to the members of the Senior Center Building Committee, with a copy to the BOS, had been sent from the Park and Recreation Commission on July 23, 2026. As stated in the memorandum, Park and Recreation is “seeking to collaborate with the Committee to address critical operational and design consideration to ensure the new building seamlessly integrates into the surrounding public park, enhances overall community usage and preserves the park’s visual landscape. The new Senior Center is planned using a section of Colonial Park.

Some areas of concern to Park and Recreation were stated as facility integration and infrastructure needs, including public restroom access, maintenance and water infrastructure, site orientation and aesthetic considerations. It was strongly suggested that public restroom access be such that users did not have to enter the Senior Center or disturb its operations, such as with an attachment to main building or a stand-alone structure.

Water infrastructure referred to a service sink and outdoor spigot for maintenance and cleaning needs as well as an accessible water source for the Community Gardens. The memorandum noted that Park and Recreation would assume full responsibility for maintenance of these public spaces.

Site orientation and aesthetic concerns included street-side enhancements to improve visual appeal from the road, rear parking placement, and traffic flow considerations. Utilizing the shared driveway past the Community Gardens would serve to preserve the natural landscape and minimize visible asphalt.

The Park and Recreation Commission’s intends this proposed collaboration to result in a more cohesive, vibrant and welcoming environment for seniors and the broader community. To that end the Commission welcomes the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further in an upcoming joint meeting. It was noted Park and Recreation requests is on the agenda for the Senior Center Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. Several Commission members agreed to attend. Don Lowe noted that the Senior Center Building Committee is willing to accept and appreciates Park and Recreation’s input on the project as the Committee has chosen an architect and is ready to move forward.

2. WesCOG had sent a report of their findings as far as ADA compliance in town. The report was several hundred pages and is being reviewed. It was noted that some items in the report were recommendations for adjustments or upgrades. Some items were commendations for some of Sherman’s facilities. The report was mostly very favorable for Sherman and it’s proactive approach regarding ADA compliance, showing concern and forward motion.

Program Coordinator Report:

John Wrenn shared JodiAnn Eure’s report, including the following:

Current programs:

1. ASP and Early Bird programs are all set to go for the new school year.

2. Ice Skating began July 12 and had 4 sessions. It was a good program with slightly lighter attendance but was enjoyed by all and it was free.
 3. Mindful Movements has 4 participants, a small but consistent group.
 4. Sports Camp with the Hatchers began and had 4 participants. More are expected and the rates were lowered.
- It was noted that September 3, 2026 is now the first day of school, earlier than originally planned.

Upcoming programs:

1. Junior Chef Camp will be offered for the week of August 17–20. There are 6 participants so far.
2. Brazilian Soccer camp is planned for August 24-28 and there are currently 3 sign-ups, with 2 more likely.
3. There will be a Tai Chi pop-up class on Thursday, August 14, 2026 at the pavilion at the Town Park.

Director's Report:

John Wrenn reported the following:

- a. The current checking account information was shared verbally with the Commission and discussed.
- b. The Summer Camps had it's issues various days of extreme heat, heavy wildfire smoke days and torrential rain. All summer activities were affected at times, including swimming lessons. Junior Camp missed some swim days because weather and air conditions made it ill-advised for them to walk from the JCC to the beach on several days. Four people took Mr. Wrenn up on his offer of free swim lessons for Junior Campers to make up for the ones missed due to weather issues.
- c. There were a total of 180 participants registered for Senior Camp and 80 for Junior Camp. Behavior issues at Senior Camp were discussed, including the consequences. Most incidences involved inappropriate language.
- d. Sherman Cares had paid for several campers to attend camps and swim lessons. Some of those children signed up for activities but were unable to attend.

Facilities Reports/Maintenance and Repairs:

- a. The boat dock project was discussed. Don Lowe had met with CLA's Executive Director and Chairman regarding the Town's proposal to share space at the CLA docks. Brian Wood was on vacation. The proposal will likely need First Light and FERC approval but it was noted that there is some support for the idea of sharing dock space among members of CLA.
- b. John Wrenn had measured the space between each of the boat slips. The smallest space was 17 3/4 feet wide, with most being 18 feet wide. 2 boats share these spaces so they should accommodate two 8 foot wide boats. B-sections are 22 feet wide and E sections are 20 feet wide. It was noted that boaters are putting bumpers on docks and also on their boats. There are built in bumpers on the docks already. Boaters are not supposed to put bumpers on docks. These actions add width to the boats and lead to problems with boats fitting into slips.
- c. There was a discussion about rules for use of the Scout House. John Wrenn will create a set of rules to present to the Commission. Included in the rules will likely be nothing hung on any walls except in designated area, like a bulletin board. It was noted that a full-sized bulletin board may be hung on the wall with the storage closet for the Scouts themselves. A smaller bulletin board for Park and Recreation use may also be hung on an adjacent wall near the door. Kris Fazzone will work with John Wrenn to determine sizes of bulletin boards.

d. The basketball and tennis court resurfacing project was discussed. It was noted that when the resurfacing project actually happens, 3 walls of fencing will be permanently removed from the basketball court and only one needs to stay standing. The remaining fence would be the one backed up to the soccer field and would prevent balls from entering the courts. The removed fencing may be enough to re-fence the space in front of team benches at the baseball field. Kris Fazzino suggested using the removed basketball court fencing to create a 10-foot fence and a 6-foot fence with a cover over the top connecting the two fences, creating more of an actual shaded dugout structure at the baseball field.

John Wrenn noted that originally 11 people were on the waiting list for boat slips this season. Mr. Wrenn was able to offer everyone on the waiting list a boat slip as the summer progressed. Some of the waiting list people had dropped off for various reasons or just did not want the slip after all.

Old Business/New Business:

- a. The approved 2026/2027 budget had been discussed at previous meetings and there was nothing new to report.
- b. There is still a need to follow through with discussions about facilities and grounds improvement workshop suggestions at a later meeting.
- c. It was noted that the suggested revision to the Rules and Regulations Ordinance, Section A #13, concerning refreshment vendors on Park and Recreation property will be presented at the next Town Meeting. Don Lowe noted that a date will be set soon.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Kris Fazzino made a motion to adjourn the August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. T.J. Fazzino seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzino
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission regular meeting is scheduled on September 14, 2026

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