SHERMAN
PARK AND RECREATION
Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 9, 2026

Present:
Fran Frattini – Chairman
T.J. Fazzone
JodiAnn Eure – Program Coordinator
Stan Greenbaum
Patrick Dillett
John Wrenn – Director
Don Lowe – First Selectman

Absent:
Stephen Frattini
Bill Teman

Guests: There were no guests.

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the November 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:15pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
There were no applications for use of pavilion or facilities.

Minutes from October 5, 2026 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2026 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting as written was made by Stan Greenbaum, seconded by Patrick Dillett and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Community/Eagle Scout Project Presentation/Updates:
The only update on a Community Project was from Fran Frattini. Mrs. Frattini noted that she had sent a follow-up letter to Nicole Correa about the Senior Project Nicole had presented to the Commission at the October meeting. Mrs. Frattini was hopeful that the project would move forward.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Correspondence:
1. Fran Frattini had received a written request from the CLA asking for the Commission's continued support of the CLA's Candlewood Steward Program for 2027-2028. There was a discussion.
Stan Greenbaum made a motion to approve continued support of the CLA's Candlewood Steward program for 2027-2028. Patrick Dillet seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

2. Fran Frattini reported that Stephen Frattini had been asked by someone if the Commission would consider putting in a mini ramp for skateboarders. Copies of what type of mini ramp was suggested were shared with the Commission. There was a discussion, including the history of requests from more than 20 years ago for Park and Recreation to consider a skateboard park. Also discussed were possible locations in town, level of interest from the community members currently, insurance issues and investigating what other nearby towns offer. It was noted that this topic might be appropriate for the upcoming Facilities/Grounds Improvement and Development Workshops follow-up.

Don Lowe noted that a legitimate area to skateboard might help deter skateboarding at places where it is not allowed. Methods to gauge the interest of residents were discussed. Stan Greenbaum added that collecting information on what recreational services Seniors were interested in would also be good to collect. Colonial Field was mentioned as a potentially ideal spot for a skateboard ramp, due to its central location and especially if there was a safe way to walk there from the school.

Program Coordinator Report:
John Wrenn shared JodiAnn Eure's program report:
Past Programs:
1. Tiny Tots had a good season with strong numbers and good weather. There were 27 children signed up on MyRec.
2. The Zombie Run went well. There were 47 participants on MyRec, $370.00 was collected in registration fees and only 2 cars passed by on the road as race was in progress. It was a great afternoon, ran very smoothly, there were more children than adults and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Current programs:
1. Mindful Movements has a small but consistent group.
2. Music Time With Miss Cheryl has monthly single day holiday themed classes in Charter Hall and the next two are almost full.

Upcoming programs:
1. Holiday lights decorating contest will be advertised this week. Park and Recreation is collaborating with Sherman Commission for the Arts. Ms. Eure's report included a request for the Commission to approve $350.00 for expenses related to the Festival of Lights Contest. The expenses include $100.00 for 1st, $75.00 for 2nd and $50.00 for 3rd place prize gift cards from local businesses, $25.00 for a door prize that involves guessing the number of candies in a jar and $100.00 for incidentals such as cookies, candy canes and decorations. Park and Recreation will host another drive-through event, this time coupled with the Town's tree lighting ceremony on

December 11, 2026. There is a need for one Park and Recreation Commission member to be a judge for the lights. Participating community members will be notified of their winning homes on December 21, 2026.
After some discussion*, T.J. Fazzone made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed $350.00 for the expenses related to the 2026 Festival of Lights contest for prizes, supplies and incidentals. Patrick Dillett seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.*

2. Stephen Frattini had sent information about a plan he has to create a new program for members of his Tiny Tots program that are aging out of Tiny Tots. Dr. Frattini proposes organizing a team of under 8yr players to play against existing New Milford and New Fairfield teams, with one practice during the week and one game on the weekend during the season. Both towns are interested in having Sherman join their soccer program. The Tiny Tots program would continue as it has been. It was noted that the Tiny Tots participants are made up of about half out-of-town children and that mix could continue in this U8 program. The new program idea sprang from interest of parents of 7-year-olds. There was a discussion and the Commission was very much in favor of creating this program.

Director's Report:
John Wrenn reported the following:
a. The October checking account report was shared and discussed.

b. Summer Camps Annual Report was shared and discussed. Swimming lessons revenue was down due to bad weather in the summer, causing multiple cancellations and the need to offer free make-up lessons. Senior Camp did very well however Junior Camp lost a few thousand dollars; the JCC rental for Junior Camp of $3,000.00 was responsible for this loss. There was a discussion about staffing, the rental rate and the possibility for using the school for Junior Camp for summer of 2027. It was noted that Junior Camp would most likely need to be held at the JCC again this coming summer due to school construction issues. Overall the 2026 summer programs report showed a net gain of $13,586.00.

c. The last of the boats have been removed from the docks. The kayaks are due to be removed by December 1, 2026, with most of them still on the racks now. Kris Fazzone noted that the zebra mussels are all over the chains to the docks and the bottom of the docks.

d. ASP is doing very well, with an average of 5 participants a day. Early Bird is also holding its own with between 1 and 4 participants daily.

Facilities Reports/Maintenance and Repairs:
a. Don Lowe noted there was no update on the boat dock project, however, John Wrenn reiterated the hope that Park and Recreation would be able to continue the three spots north of the swim area on the south slip area and asked Don Lowe to speak to Brian Wood about this issue. There was a discussion about an article on the BOS meeting wherein they discussed boat assignment procedures, including weighted system and other various ways to manage assignments.

There was a discussion concerning Park and Recreation's involvement in the planning of the new Senior Center facility at Colonial Park, especially to have a water source for the Community

Gardens and bathroom facilities accessed from outside only for people using Colonial Park and the gardens. Planning for coordinating senior-friendly recreational activities at Colonial Field was also noted as a goal of Park and Recreation. The Commission's wishes to have a representative on the SCBC has been denied. Commission members summarized efforts that they have made to clarify Park and Recreations goals in writing and in person at meetings with the Senior Center Building Committee (SCBC). Commission members who have attended some of the SCBC's meetings felt that Park and Recreation's concerns were not being considered.

Excerpts from a recent article in the Town Tribune 10/29/26 on the BOS 10/22/26 meeting indicated that Park and Recreation's requests would not be included in the plans. It went on to say that Park and Rec is encouraged to work with Suzette Berger, Coordinator of the Senior Center. Fran Frattini asked Don Lowe to explain what this statement meant. There was a discussion and an indication that the statement meant that John Wrenn and JodiAnn Eure should work with Suzette Berger on program issues.

Mr. Lowe noted that the BOS is considering Park and Recreation's requests. Patrick Dillett noted that he perceived that the BOS has been dismissive toward Park and Recreation at the SCBC meetings he has attended. Fran Frattini noted that the biggest concerns for Park and Recreation were a water source for the Community Gardens and access to a bathroom. There was further discussion, including the possibility of a Commission member joining in the site visit for the new Senior Center which had been denied in the past. It was suggested that a letter to the local newspaper may call attention to this so residents my weigh in on these concerns.

At this point, Don Lowe left the meeting.

The new Senior Center discussion continued. It was suggested that the Senior Center may not want passers-by in vehicles to stop and use bathroom facilities without a legitimate reason to be at Colonial Park. It was noted that the bathrooms are not planned to be adjacent to a parking lot and cannot be seen from the road so there may be virtually no extra non-resident use of the bathrooms as there is with the present port-o-potty that is in the parking lot. Timed locks on the bathroom could be used also to deter inappropriate use of bathroom. It was noted that the inclusion of a bathroom for Park and Recreation use included in the SCBC plans would be far less costly than putting in a new composting toilet building, like the one at Veterans Field. Community involvement was discussed as well.

It was reiterated that Park and Recreation needs to have input in a project that takes place on a Park and Recreation facility, namely Colonial Park. Options for a water source for the gardens that would not adversely affect the Senior Center were discussed. Parking lot, driveway plans, and effective strategies to be heard at future attendance at SCBC meetings were also discussed

b. There was a brief discussion about the need to formalize rules for use of the Scout House.

c. Basketball court and tennis court resurfacing will be discussed at a later meeting.

d. Leaf blowing has been done at all the parks. Kris Fazzone will see if they need it again later in the season. Mr. Fazzone also met with Bill McCann regarding the benches and sign for the Pollinator Pathway, including sign style and bench anchoring methods. It was agreed that the sign

will be in the style of the other Park and Recreation facilities' signs and that the Town Crew will assist with installing benches and mulching the area. All picnic tables have been stacked in the pavilion at the Town Park. The docks and buoys are out of the water. Mr. Fazzone has received lots of compliments on the condition of the Upper Veterans soccer field used by the school this season. Some clean-up at Colonial Field is being planned and will likely be a winter project.

e. Colonial Park and the new Senior Center project were again discussed.

Old Business/New Business:
a. The approved 2026/2027 budget had been discussed at previous meetings. The 2027-2028 proposed budget preparations will be coming up at the January meeting.

b. There is still a need to follow through with discussions about the facilities and grounds improvement workshop suggestions at a later meeting. Suggesting that the skate mini ramp could be included.

c. Fran Frattini had sent her draft of the 2027 Meeting Dates and it was discussed. Meetings will continue on the second Monday of the month pattern in the new year. The exception is in October 2027, when the meeting will be on October 4 due to a holiday on the second Monday. There were no conflicts noted. Fran Frattini will submit the dates and add a request for use of the Town Hall meeting room for boat dock lottery on first Saturday in October 2027.

d. The election of officers was discussed. *Kris Fazzone nominated Fran Frattini for Chairman and T.J. Fazzone as Treasurer. Stan Greenbaum seconded the nominations and the motion was voted with all in favor.* It was noted that Fran Frattini is in her 43rd year on the Park and Recreation Commission and that January 2027 will mark the beginning of her 41st year of as Chairman. Mrs. Frattini and Mr. Fazzone thanked the Commission for their continued support.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the November 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. Patrick Dillett seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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 December 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