

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

PO Box 46 Somers, New York 10589

OFF: (914)-232-8441

FAX: (914)-232-8548

Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **September 24, 2025**

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello; Chris McCormack; Don Penzine; Janelle Robbins; Michele Sanz; and Kevin Westerman.

Stephen Krug; John Papalia; and John Zattola were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston and Councilman Richard Clinchy were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2025, meeting as submitted. Mrs. Robbins seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Although overall the Day Camp went well this summer, it would be ideal to hire older staff. When the Counselors and Division Heads are too close in age, issues can arise. It would also be helpful if there were some older staff who could be floaters to oversee what the camp groups are doing and give guidance as needed to the Counselors. In addition, phone usage by staff and older campers was an issue, even though staff contracts and parent handbooks give guidance on when they can and cannot be used. Improvements and ways to address these issues will be considered before the summer 2026 camp is held.

Mr. Ralston appreciates Councilman Tom Garrity's support for the past many years and is going to miss working with him.

RJ Peterson has completed his Eagle Scout Project of installing split rail fences at all the entrances to Van Tassell Park. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing, but will allow for the installation of planned gates to close off the property.

There were some sewer line and irrigation system issues over the last couple of months that had to be dealt with. Thankfully, the Town contracted plumbers, Bee & Jay Plumbing and Town maintenance staff member, Martin Gnip, were able to make the corrections. Both of these items are quite old.

NEW BUSINESS:

2026 Proposed Budget

Mr. Ralston prepared a proposed budget for 2026. It was reviewed and discussed. The overall feeling is that a salary increase for Mr. Ralston needs to be proposed as well, as he continues to do an exceptional job though his responsibilities for the Town properties continue to grow and increase.

Angle Fly Wildlife Management Program

Registration for the fall wildlife management program is ongoing until October 1st. Program Coordinator Bob Mendoza has been checking qualifications of new hunters and having orientation for them.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reis Park Improvements and Expansion Update

The Town applied for a grant to be used toward the Reis Park Expansion project, but unfortunately the application did not result in the Town being awarded the grant. It had been the sincere hope of the Board that the Reis Park Expansion Committee would reconvene over the summer to talk about further details of the expansion, but that has not yet happened, even after an email request was made. The Board is disappointed that it has, as yet, played a very small role in this project, though it seems to the Board that the project is squarely within the ambit of the responsibility given to the Board by the Town.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. McCormack thanked Councilman Garrity for his support of the Board as well as the Department and wished him good luck. The rest of the Board joined in expressing their appreciation for Councilman Garrity's support and his many contributions to the Parks and Recreation Board and to the Town of Somers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The Board will meet next on October 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Board

cc: Parks and Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Town Board
Town Clerk

