

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **October 22, 2025**

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Resident Dave Ouimette, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston and Town Supervisor Rob Scorrano were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Robbins to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025, meeting as submitted. Mrs. Sanz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no comments or questions about Mr. Ralston's report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hirdle Voice Tags

Resident Dave Ouimette met with the Board and Town Supervisor to discuss a proposal wherein he would provide Hirdle Voice Tags for properties and facilities in Town. He demonstrated and explained how voice tags work. They can be a great benefit to the residents and visitors, offering practical information, directions and background about the facility where the voice tag is located. The Town would have to provide a tech savvy volunteer or intern that would be the middle-man between the Town and Mr. Ouimette. The intern, who most likely would have to be a college student, would have to collect information, create and record short as well as concise messages that would be accessed via a QR code that links with a landing page and an AI assistant. Somers would be the pilot program, and Mr. Ouimette would require a yearly contribution of \$1,500 to cover backend costs. All thought this

was an idea with great potential and Mr. Ouimette will make an appointment to meet with Supervisor Scorrano to discuss this concept further.

OLD BUSINESS:

2026 Proposed Budget Update

Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman attended the department budget hearing this morning. There seemed to be a positive response to the need to hire older staff as when the Counselors and Division Heads are too close in age, issues can arise as well as hiring another manager who could oversee what the camp groups are doing and give guidance as needed to the Counselors. Mr. Westerman also advocated for an increase for Mr. Ralston as his department has been given a continual increase in responsibilities.

Reis Park Improvements and Expansion Update

Supervisor Rob Scorrano thanked everyone for their input regarding the Reis Park Improvements and Expansion project. He gave an overview to date. KG&D was hired by the Town to create a design plan and they subcontracted Insite Engineering. The Town worked with Rich Williams of Insite Engineering who did a good job guiding the Town. The Highway Department cut a temporary emergency/event access roadway which proved to be extremely beneficial for Somers' 2025 Independence Day Celebration. After plans for this project began, a grant was applied for that would essentially cover the estimated cost of the project. Unfortunately, the Town was not awarded the grant and as a result, decided to rethink the scope of this project based on the cost. As a result, Committee meetings were put on hold and a decision was made to redesign and revise. LANDTECH and GORDIAN, who are on State contract and are pre procured eliminating the need to go out to bid were consulted. Using them will cost a bit more, but are expected to save money in the long run. LANDTECH is park oriented and has been very receptive to date. These companies have been asked to plan a project in phases, with a cost estimate per phase that includes reimagining the existing facilities with building pickle ball courts and updating the lighting as priorities. The overall feeling is that spending money to update the existing facilities which are for residents only made more sense to Supervisor Scorrano than to develop the recently-annexed 11 acres. The money spent to date on the design from KG&D was not for nought as the Town now has an engineer plan for the 11 acres. Supervisor Scorrano apologized for not updating the Committee, but all were caught up in the process. Mr. Westerman thanked the Supervisor for coming to the meeting and updating the Board.

The Board continued the conversation after Supervisor Scorrano left the meeting and all agreed that making the emergency/event access roadway permanent needs to be a priority and part of an optional plan presented.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Chairman Westerman reminded everyone that Board members should make their attendance at meetings a priority and to work around their schedules as best they can, especially since there are only ten meetings per year and the dates of the meetings are given a year in advance. While there have been very few times when the Board did not have a quorum, repeated absences still affect the dialogue and exchange of ideas and varied perspectives that are so important to the work that the Board does. This evening five members were present,

which is a quorum. He thanked those present as clearly their commitment to attend all of the meetings that they can is evident.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The Board will meet next on December 11th 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