

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2026

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello; Stephen Krug; Chris McCormack; John Papalia; Janelle Robbins; Kevin Westerman; and John Zattola.

Don Penzine was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, Councilwoman Gina Arena and Councilman Rich Clinchy were also present.

Mr. Penzine is resigning from the Board as he is relocating. He called Mr. Westerman prior to the meeting to say goodbye to everyone and wish them well. Mr. Westerman said that he will certainly be missed and has made so many contributions to the Town of Somers as a member of many organizations. At 93 years of age, Mr. Penzine has so much passion and vitality. He is one of a kind and an inspiration. Personally, Mr. Westerman has learned a lot from him. All wished Mr. Penzine well on this next chapter of his life.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Boniello to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2026, meeting as submitted. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

As of today, the registration for Day Camp is 394 for those that are entering Kindergarten through 6th grade.

The Wildlife Management participants have completed trail maintenance on the Plum Brook Road side of the trail. Michael Barnhart is working on the trails in the main part of Angle Fly Preserve and keeping the beaver dams notched. The Parks staff are scheduled to do some trail maintenance in early June. The scouts walk and report trail conditions as they can't do a

lot of the maintenance as to the restrictions they have of equipment use. They are though able to replace trail signs and re-blaze if needed. All of the trails are currently in good condition.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dugout Mural Proposal

Somers' resident, Chris Rios, the owner of Westchester Murals, proposed to the Town Supervisor a project where he would paint murals on the inside and outside of the dugouts on the Jr. League Field. He was advised to meet with the Parks and Recreation Board to discuss this further. Mr. Rios attended the meeting this evening to share his ideas with the Board. Mr. Rios noted that he recently painted some murals at the Somers High School. Mr. Ralston commented that this would be an ideal time to do this type of project as the dugouts will be power washed and painted soon. Pictures of the proposed mural designs were shared with the Board and discussed. The paint used will include a clear coat and is anti-graffiti and UV protected. Mr. Rios believes that the murals would easily last more than a decade. The project would take about a week to complete, weather permitting, for a total cost of \$8,000. A motion was made by Mr. Zattola and seconded by Mr. Papalia to accept Mr. Rios' proposal as presented. All were in favor. He will work with Mr. Ralston on a contract to include the final designs and wording. When that is agreed upon and completed, the proposal and the Park and Recreation Board's recommendation that it be accepted will be forwarded to the Town Board for approval.

SYSO Scoreboard Proposal

Mr. Ralston announced that the Somers Youth Sports Organization (SYSO) is proposing to replace the scoreboard on the Jr. League Field. They would pay for and install it, and it would be gifted to the Town who would be responsible for maintaining it. With that in mind, the Board would like to review the estimates they get to be sure the company is local and parts will be available. Ideally, that information will be emailed so that the Parks Board members will have time to review and can come to the June Parks and Recreation Board meeting prepared to discuss this further.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reis Park Improvements Update

This evening, Mr. Ralston announced that at their May 14th meeting, the Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute a professional services agreement with LandTek. All were pleased with that update. Councilman Clinchy stressed the importance of input from the Parks and Recreation Board at this point so that when the process progresses further, their requests have been included. All agreed and, after a spirited discussion, it was decided that the following should be proposed to the Town Board to be added to the design for the expansion: a small-scale walking path around lower Reis Park that might connect to some pathways already existing; a safe access in walking from lower Reis Park to upper; and adding turf on the inner field of the Pony League Field to allow for a diversity of playing ability. A walking path was included in a prior design and was removed when vendors changed. A memo will be sent to the Town Board on this issue.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Westerman shared that, with the Parks and Recreation Board approval, he would like to re-introduce the Board's ideas for renovation proposals at Bailey Park. All agreed that is a good idea. This will be discussed further at the June Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Mr. Zattola commented that Reis Park is a crown jewel and the Reis Park Expansion project is needed and justified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The Board will meet next on June 24th 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