

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2026

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

The members present were: Chris McCormack; Janelle Robbins; Kevin Westerman; and John Zattola.

Jim Boniello, Stephen Krug and John Papalia were absent.

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

Residents Terry Clifford, Jack Mattes and Bobby Zattola were present as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Zattola to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2026, meeting as submitted. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Mrs. Robbins wondered why the number of hunters during turkey season was so few. Hunting for turkey is limited to a month from sunrise to 12:00 noon. Mr. Ralston said that since the inception of this program, the number of hunters during turkey season has almost been non-existent because the schedule is so restrictive.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bailey Park Enhancements

Last month, Mr. Westerman mentioned that he would like the Board to revisit the proposal made to the Town Board a few years back to enhance Bailey Park to entice more use. Mr. Ralston shared documents that included plans, pricing, letters, etc. The Town Board initially approved the project but then shelved it. Unfortunately, there was some opposition at the time from the Somers Open Space Committee, which is understandable, as its expressly stated purpose is to try to preserve parcels of land by opposing improvements, and the Somers

Historical Society, which seemed to misunderstand both the specifics of the proposed project and that the property itself, though it is located in the Business Historic Preservation District, has no history attached to it. Both of those organizations apparently placed little or no value in making the park to be a place that residents and civic organizations would actually use. The final proposal presented included a pathway from the corners of Routes 100 and 202 to a patio in front of the existing gazebo, three small sitting areas and new plantings. All agreed the proposal of these enhancements needs to be reintroduced as Bailey Park, though it has a large gazebo and is located in what should be seen as the center of Town, is not used, because it is not welcoming and does not have easy access for older folks, or anyone after it rains. It was suggested that Mr. Ralston reach out to the Town Supervisor about how to move this forward to make sure that Town Board would be generally supportive of the project before the Parks and Recreation Board expends the time and energy of working through the process needed to obtain final approval. An email will be sent with Mr. Westerman copied and then the rest of the Board will be updated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reis Park Improvements Update

Last month, all agreed after a spirited discussion 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 was sent to the Town Board on this issue.

This evening, Mr. Ralston reported that LandTek, the Town Planner, Town Engineer, Planning Board and Town Supervisor are working on the logistics of the project in an effort to move forward.

Day Camp Update

Camp begins on Monday, June 29th and there are 405 registrants as compared to 330 last year. All registrants were accommodated and additional campers will be accepted after the first week of camp. All preparations are complete including staff and parent orientation and staff training in CPR, First Aid and AED.

Angle Fly Preserve Greenway Grant Update

In January, it was announced that the Town was in receipt of a Greenway Grant that was submitted by Woodard & Curran consulting engineer Steve Robbins to create a master plan for the Town's exclusive 15-acre portion of Angle Fly Preserve, including the Reynolds House. All Parks and Recreation Board members were reminded to email any and all ideas that they had to Mr. Ralston. Board members were reminded again to do so and to be prepared to discuss and finalize at the July meeting.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Councilman Clinchy asked for an update on the murals to be painted on the interior and exterior of the Jr. League Field. It is still a work in process as discussions about the wording for the murals has not been settled on.

Councilman Clinchy also talked about a recycling process for all Town-owned buildings with employees. The Parks and Recreation Department now has recycling bins in their office. The outdoor bins have new signage as to what should and shouldn't be placed in them. Clear and black bags are now being used as well to differentiate which dumpsters they go in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The Board will meet next on July 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