

2025 APR 14 PM 3:00

REC'D BY:

*Chris*

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
April 9, 2025**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at the Senior Center, 145 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT. Zoom was also available for those who wished not to attend in person.

ATTENDANCE: .....Brian Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman  
.....Andrew Joly  
.....Christopher Parker  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Sam Lombardo  
.....Jackie Guzie  
.....Stephen Marchillo

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: .....Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Brian asked Peter to read the agenda into the minutes:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Public Input
- C. Review of Minutes
- D. Correspondence
- E. Program Reports
- F. Old Business
  - a. Summer Registration opened 3/17/25
  - b. Spring & Summer Events
- G. New Business
  - a. Conservation Commission Fishing Derby
  - b. Men's Outdoor Summer Basketball League
  - c. Bandstand/Gazebo on Town Green
    - i. Ad hoc for design review
  - d. Other
- H. Adjournment

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**MINUTES:** Bill made a motion to accept the minutes. Chris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Peter received a few emails with concerns regarding the new fees policy for field use which the DPW has increased. The feeling from these emails is that the fees are too high. The commission discussed the changes, the fee based groups that are unhappy with the increases, and the work that it entails to keep the fields in good condition. Peter forwarded the emails to the DPW director.

Peter received a personal note complimenting us on our sports programs and organization.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** We have a lot of exercise programs/fitness programs and we try to work with businesses in town.

The Open Mic night was a big success. Peter reviewed the evening and the various people that presented.

The March Madness program is over but there is an upcoming trip, May 18, to the Connecticut Sun. We have gone to the Basketball Hall of Fame in previous years and some kids have been with us for three years and we wanted to make it more interesting. The cost of the trip is included in the signup fee. Feedback has been positive.

Flag Football is up and running. We have ordered uniforms. Level 1 has 62 kids; Level 2 has 63 and Level 3 has 58. We have kids from surrounding towns along with Suffield kids. The program was discussed in detail and Peter said he would like to have a tournament in the fall with other towns included.

Dan and Donna have been very busy with summer staff applicants and getting ready for training and the start of camps.

Brian asked about Dancing Stars and Peter reviewed the venue, what needs to be done, set up schedule, program schedule and times volunteers are needed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Registration opened 3/17/25:** We set a capacity record and signup record for summer camp registration. We start advertising in January to let people know when camp registration opens. We can only accommodate a certain number of campers. There is plenty of open space but we have to consider inclement weather issues. We need to put the kids under one roof and have a safe and interesting program on the weather days.

**Spring and Summer Events:** Peter reviewed some of the upcoming events/programs – Summer Fair, July Yard Goats Game, Movie Nights, Wednesday night concerts, running club and other events. The Conservation Commission will hold their Fishing Derby at Sunrise Park on May 10. We support them by helping at the event. The event starts at 9 a.m. and is for 16 years and younger. The fishing is great and it is a fun event.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Conservation Commission Fishing Derby:** See above.

**Men's Outdoor Summer Basketball League:** We have pickup basketball on Wednesday and Thursday nights for men and on Tuesday night for women at the courts behind the Middle School. The men's program has been overwhelming popular. The price of a team was discussed and Peter said that a uniform is included along with the referee fees. Chris Parker has offered to organize the officials and the schedule. The officials will be certified. The commission discussed the importance of good officiating. The logo for the league is located on

the back page of the packet given to the commission members at the start of the meeting. We have a sponsor for the league, Windsor Federal. Peter reviewed how the teams will be registered and the number for each team. The program starts in June and teams will play 1 to 2 games a week ending with each team playing each other twice. The top four will be in the semi-final and final with program ending in August. Peter thanked Lee Corbert, the DPW director for his efforts helping with the league.

**Bandstand/Gazebo on Town Green:** The town green gazebo needs to be replaced. The Historical Commission has asked that the commission form an ad hoc committee to review the design and add our comments and concerns. We will be an extra pair of eyes. The present gazebo is not big enough for a band so Peter would like to see the size doubled but the design still like what we have now. The commission discussed the present gazebo, design changes, building codes, etc.

**Ad hoc for design review:** Peter asked if anyone was interested in becoming a member and he will forward the names to the Historical Commission. Andy, Brian, Chris and Dave volunteered.

**Other:** Bill said he was approached by someone who wanted to know why we changed the Parks & Rec Logo on the road race shirts and wanted to know if it could be returned to the original logo. Peter said that we tried to re-brand the race and attract more people from other towns. The old logo and new logo were discussed. Peter said it could be brought back. The new logo has the town seal with Parks and Rec around it.

Peter said that he was approached by the public school regarding our registration program. The one that they use is not updated and becoming more cumbersome to use. We offered up our registration system with some training. We now registered McAlister's after school programs. Peter is sure that the other schools will follow suit. There is no cost to us, and there is a benefit to the public for a one stop registration system.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting

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