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SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2026

REC'D BY: EUR

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2026, in the first-floor meeting room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT. Zoom was also available for those who wished not to attend in person.

ATTENDANCE:Brian Casinghino, Chairman
.....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman
.....Sam Lombardo
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Jackie Guzie
.....Andrew Joly
.....Christopher Parker
.....Chad Lemmens

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Peter Leclerc, Director
.....Ryan Brady, Parks & Recreation Intern

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Field Usage
 - b. New 5k Road Race Route
 - c. Youth Basketball Tournament
- G. New Business
 - 1. Summer Camp Legislation
 - 2. Camp Start Registration & Start Dates
 - 3. 2026 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats
 - 1. July 10, 7pm game
 - a. 110 Public Tickets
 - 2. 2026 Award Nominations
 - 4. Summer Events/America 250
 - 1. Master's Style Bucket Golf Tournament
 - 2. Suffield Summer Fair
 - a. 6/25-27
 - b. SMS

3. Chalk Art Festival
 - a. 6/20
 - b. KML
4. Concerts on the Green
 - a. 7/4 (@Babb's), 8, 15, 22, 29 & 8/1
5. Outdoor Movies on the Green
 - a. 7/11, 18 25 & 8/5

H. Other

I. Adjournment

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Dave made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: We received a second letter from Bob Berriman, and the 2nd item is an email from Valley Wheel Over 28 Baseball Leagues.

The email from Valley Wheel Over 28 Baseball League is regarding the field use fee of \$100 per field. He said they have 8 games and the cost is prohibitive. Peter said the fee was instituted by the DPW and adopted by the Town. We have no control over the fee that is charged for field use. Peter stated that \$100 per game would be an approximate cost of \$4 per participant per game based on 12 players per team.

The commission discussed the fee and what is incurred with maintaining fields for athletic use. The cost for a lined field is an additional \$140.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter highlighted Donna's report. The Family Paint Night is an enrichment program that was well attended and is low cost.

The Fit Kids program instructor is Stefanie Dolan.

Donna held a Branding workshop, a business program, which was very successful. We are holding another one.

Dan is full out with basketball. We have had a few problems due to the snow and the school parking needing to be being plowed during scheduled game times. The schools did not open due to safety concerns, but we were able to reschedule.

Bill said he was asked why 2 Suffield teams played each other at an out-of-town location. Peter said it could be that gym space was not available in town, but he will find out the reason. The commission discussed gym space and availability.

Dan led a meeting for the flag football program. The meeting went well.

Under professional development, Dan is now certified to do lifeguard courses so he is be able to certify lifeguards. Suffield Academy is partnering with us so we can use their pool. This will help with acquiring lifeguards for our programs at a lower cost to participants and Suffield Academy also needs lifeguards for their pool. The lifeguard situation, ages, ability to get certification, and the responsibilities of the lifeguard were discussed by the commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Usage: There was a field usage meeting with the 1st selectman, town attorney, Matt Hoffman representing the Lacrosse Club, Andy, Brian and Peter. Peter reviewed his reasons for scheduling the field as he did, as the current land use is designated for soccer.

The meeting was productive and there will be an administrative change, through Planning and Zoning, and once this is done, we will be able to schedule other sports on the field.

There was discussion on the use of the field, the meeting and other items related to this subject.

New 5K Road Race Route: Steve said that after review of the possible course changes it was determined that the best change would be from the Middle School heading to Remington Road by crossing Mountain Road, Remington Road to South Main Street. Turning left onto South Main Street, cross over to Mountain Road and head back to the Middle School.

The commission discussed the current route, the problems with it, the proposed new 5k course, the quality of the runners and other factors of the race. Peter said he will drive the course tomorrow.

Youth Basketball Tournament: The tournament is for 3rd and 4th grade boys and Dan already has some teams signed up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Camp Legislation: Peter said he wrote to the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association board of directors in regard to certain portions of the bill. The main part of the bill expands the mandated reporter definition, and we are on board with this. A subsection of the bill is directing EOC to collect data on every municipal camp. What the camp is, who the people are, who are staffing is, our everyday operations of the camp. The concerns that Peter brought up to the board are that EOC does not have legal oversight of municipal camps, so why are they collecting data. In the past this type of reporting of data turns into legislation without debate. All the data they want collected has no bearing on mandated reporting. It causes an undue burden on the town – staff wise and financially. There was discussion on various other data collections which took place and then legislative regulations were adopted. We are all for child safety and we do that. But this section of the bill will not enhance child safety and will end up costing the taxpayers by increasing costs.

The bill will be brought up for testimony this coming Tuesday. Peter notified our representatives to keep a look out for it.

Camp Start Registration & Start Dates: Registration starts mid-March. Donna has put out some advertising of this.

2026 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats:

July 10, 7 p.m. game. Ryan created a flyer to generate interest, and it will be on the Parks and Rec website. The tickets will be purchased through the website and will cost around \$20/each.

110 Public Tickets. We have purchased 150 tickets. Forty of those tickets are for recipients and their families. If we need more, we can get them. Brian said that it is a great event and we have had good weather in the past. Peter said that we had a singer in the past, but it got too complicated with changes in the song without giving us notice.

2026 Award Nominations. The letters to the recipients have been sent out.

Peter reviewed the awards that we give out. He also described what the criteria are for the different awards. This year's Louis Casinghino Public Service Award recipient is David Rusnock. The commission members congratulated Dave and Peter reviewed some of the many times that David has gone out of his way to help and why he deserves this award.

Some of the other recipients were discussed along with their contributions. For the youth award recipient, we like to go to the school with the parents to announce the winner.

Summer Events/America 250:

Master's Style Bucket Golf Tournament. A generic notice about the event has been sent out. We invested in bucket golf last year and this year we will do a master's style tournament. It will be low cost to get people out and held in mid-April or early May.

Suffield Summer Fair.

a. 6/25 – 27 – This year we changed the dates to accommodate the rides vendor. Their most profitable event was changed to our weekend. We need to have the rides for the event, so we needed changed our dates.

b. SMS – location.

Chalk Art Festival. We have partnered with Kent Memorial Library and with the 250th American theme in mind, we are doing a chalk art festival with real chalk artists. It will be held on the sidewalk at the entrance and the handicap ramp. If we need more space, we have it.

a. 6/20 – date for event.

b. KML – location.

Concerts on the Green: All the dates are booked except for July 15. Peter said he is still waiting to hear from one of the bands. We have some new bands this year. The bands were discussed. The August 5 concert band is The Falcons, comprised of high schoolers that played at last year's Summer Fair. PeoplesBank is sponsoring the concerts.

a. 7/4 (@Babb's), 8, 15, 22, 29 & 8/1 (8/1 corrected to 8/5)

Outdoor Movies on the Green. The Stefanie Salerno Team at Coldwell Banker Realty will be sponsoring the movies. The bookend movies are Wicked and Wicked for Good.

a. 7/11, 18, 25 & 8/5 (8/5 corrected to 8/1)

Other: Bill asked if we would be doing a parade for the 4th. The town will not be doing one, but Peter would like to see a group of citizens step up and put one together. The parade route and parade that was held for the town's 350th anniversary was discussed. The amount of work, time and effort to put together a parade was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting.