

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
March 11, 2026

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REC'D BY: *[Signature]*

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 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: .....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman  
.....Andrew Joly (Zoom)  
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Brian Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Sam Lombardo  
.....Jackie Guzie  
.....Christopher Parker  
.....Chad Lemmens

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

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Bill chaired the meeting for Brian. Bill 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. New 5k Road Race Route
  - b. Summer Camp Oversight Legislation
  - c. 2025 Basketball Schedule
  - d. Community Awards
- G. New Business
  - a. Parks & Recreation Podcast on Spotify
  - b. Building renovations
  - c. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Funding Request
  - d. Other
- H. Other
- I. Adjournment

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Peter started with Donna's report. The Open Mic Night was postponed due to weather and rescheduled to March 6. There was a maintenance issue at Spaulding School where the youth cheerleading program is held. It was moved to the Senior Center gym which worked out well. The staff loved the site.

The use and convenience of the Senior Center was discussed.

On Dan's report he talks about the STEM Robotics Program which is a junior engineering program. The instructors are John McCarthy and Scott Crosson. It is an afterschool program and has been well received. We invested in some equipment, and it has worked out well. It is a feeder program for the high school.

Dan is working on the lifeguard certification course, flag football, adult pickleball, pickup basketball, tee ball and others. The basketball tournament has a cap of 18 and we have 6 signed up so far.

Bill asked about summer camp registration. Peter said it opens on Monday morning. All the camp information is online so parents can make decisions on what they want to sign up for. Many of the programs will be filled up quickly.

Bill asked for a motion to accept the program reports. Dave made a motion to accept the program reports. Andy questioned why we needed a motion since he didn't think we usually did that. Bill said we sometimes don't, but we should. Andy seconded the motion. All said yes to accept the reports.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**New 5K Road Race Route:** Peter, Donna and Dan drove the new route. Remington up to 75 and then left on Main Street South and then down Mountain Road. Peter said it is a great course; it has a few hills but nothing super taxing. We will get it measured and hope that it is near the present starting point. If it isn't we have plenty of room to change it. We will advertise it as a new route.

There was discussion on the new route.

**Summer Camp Oversight Legislation:** The same type of legislation has been put forward and this year there are a few things that are for child safety. But the legislation is more about State control of the town's camps. We have a lot of oversight and a standard above what this legislation is requiring. Many communities will more than likely cut their summer camps if this legislation passes. The cost and administration work would be prohibitive. Bill said it is an unfunded mandate. Part of the legislation is now to do a study of all aspects of each town's camps and report to the Office of Children and Families. They have no oversight of us, but they want to know everything we do with the programs. Many times that they do a study and report it precedes to legislation. The bill will go out to the legislature floor for debate.

The commission discussed how we train our staff, the proposed bill and that some organizations and camps will be exempted from the regulations.

**2025 Basketball Schedule:** There were some teams that played a good amount of their schedule outside of Suffield. Some of it was due to gym space and some because of error. We know they have to get better at scheduling more home games. When we used to play in-house there were two 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade teams and now there are 4. We are growing. With all the towns included there are eight 7/8 teams. The games should have been more appropriately scheduled.

Bill said he understood the gym space problem but still the teams should have been scheduled better.

**Community Awards:** Dave will be receiving an award. Peter presented the award to the high school student at the high school. The principal was there and it is nice to acknowledge the recipient in front of their peers. The other recipients will be notified of their awards, and they will be honored at the Yard Goat game.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Parks & Recreation Podcast on Spotify:** On social media we are working with the community channel through Cox. We have 4 - 15-minute podcasts and we will be airing them weekly. We did one with Dan and Donna on spring programs and summer camps. One with 2 4 1 Sports. One has already aired and a resident told Peter they heard the podcast. The next one will be Stefanie Salerno and her community involvement. We will try to do it quarterly – spaced out over 3 weeks. Peter asked the commission members if they have any topics they would like discussed. This is another way to get information out to the public.

The studio is a regional Cox studio and very professional.

**Building Renovations:** This affects Parks & Rec as well. The flooring will be replaced; it will be 95% done. We will save money since it does not have to be striped and waxed, just soap and water to clean. Peter reviewed the various improvements that have been made to the facility. If the budget passes, we will purchase banquet tables and new chairs. The banquet tables will be used when we hold events. Also included in the requested budget is paint.

**Parks & Recreation Master Plan Funding Request:** Next week Peter will go to the Board of Selectmen meeting to see if they are on board for funding of a master plan. The Committee on Capital Expenditures requested that we do this before we make a request through capital expenditures.

Peter reviewed the various items that a master plan would cover and how it would allow us to have a clear vision on where the town is going. This will have input into schools and various other town services.

Peter said he can share master plans from other towns so that the commission members can get a better understanding of what the plan covers and the information it provides.

**Other:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Andy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting.