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SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
April 8, 2026

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 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
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)
.....Chad Lemmens (Zoom)

ABSENT:.....Sam Lombardo
.....Jackie Guzie
.....Andrew Joly
.....Christopher Parker
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Peter Leclerc, Director
.....Ryan Brady, Intern
.....Robin Zatony, Suffield Resident

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Bill made a motion to amend the agenda to let Robin speak first on Item F. Old Business, b. Update on Bandstand on Town Green and then return to the regular agenda. Stephen seconded and all vote yes.

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. New 5k Road Race Route
 - b. Update on Bandstand on Town Green
 - c. Dancing Stars of Suffield Recap
- G. New Business
 - a. Conservation Commission Fishing Derby
 - b. Other
- H. Other
- I. Adjournment

Old Business, Update on Bandstand on Town Green: Brian welcomed Robin and asked her to speak on the update. Robin said the base is in. Robin asked but did not get an answer as to when the stamped concrete will go in. The concrete color will be slate and style is cobblestone. The roof is Virginia slate color and the top of the cupola is copper with glass. Once the stamped concrete is installed, it will be remeasured and the timbers, which are in California, will be cut.

Robin is still working on getting the back wall piece designed and then built. She is trying to get people in town involved.

Hopefully, the building will be installed the first week in June so we can officially open it July 3. July 3 is exactly 50 years after the former bandstand was built.

Elzear Roy donated time and talent to take down the old building and to put in the new concrete base which includes the stamped base.

The Rotary Club is the financial sponsor of the new building, and they are very excited about it. They have advertised it on social media, and it has been well received.

Peter said that Robin has put a lot of work into this project and he wanted to acknowledge that.

The commission discussed the old bandstand, the reasons it needed to be replaced, some of the amenities of the new building and some of the advantages of the new building's construction. Brian thanked Robin for all the work and effort she has put into this project.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter said that Ryan will talk about the March Mania Tournament which he helped Dan with. The tournament was held at the Middle School and High School. There were 8 teams with 2 divisions. Ryan was at the Middle School location and received a lot of good feedback. A trophy was presented and a Suffield team won it. Ryan showed the commission members the tee shirts that were provided.

Ryan and Dan have talked about improvements and additions for next year.

Peter will be submitting an article next month on the economic impact that this event has on the town. The financial impact to the town from this tournament was approximately \$12,000.00. The commission discussed the impact on the town and how the service

industries in town benefit. There was discussion on expanding the tournament and Peter said they would like to, but it depends on gym space.

Peter thanked Stephen and all members of the flag football subcommittee for their efforts.

Donna's report highlights the Easter Egg hunt and dinner. It was held in the Senior Center and there were 3,000 eggs. The Easter Bunny was there too. It was an amazing event.

OLD BUSINESS:

New 5K Road Race Route: Peter said the new course is a little short. We are making adjustments because the course is really good. Bill asked how short it is and Peter said between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Bill suggested using Cane Street, which is a left off Remington and then comes back on Route 75. Peter said that we could use that and change the starting point. We will have it digitally measured and make adjustments from there.

Brian asked if anyone has shared this new course with the police. Bill will contact the police, and Peter will be a part of it.

Update on Bandstand on Town Green: See above.

Dancing Stars of Suffield Recap: Peter thanked everyone that helped with the event. Brian gave a speech. Brian gave credit to Peter for an outstanding event. The dancers and judges are professional and were complimented by all. This event is a fundraiser.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conservation Commission Fishing Derby: The fishing derby is Saturday, May 16. This is a Conservation Commission event and we partner with them. Peter described what goes on at the event.

Other: Donna asked Peter to invite everyone to the end of season Bowling Buddies Luau, May 5, 5 to 8 p.m. at Sunrise Park. Families are invited.

Chad talked about a group he created in the mid-west – take a hike. He has started a take a hike group here. The goal is to get information on hiking areas out to the public and having group hikes so people feel safe. Brian asked what Chad's means of communication is. He said social media and also Parks and Rec. Chad is hoping to make this wide spread and going out to different areas and events.

Chad reviewed how he put this together and how it grew. He is looking for different hiking areas in the area and state along with surrounding states.

The commission discussed the different areas for hiking, and other groups and hikes. This is to help get information out about different groups, hiking areas and other outdoor events that are happening.

Peter congratulated Chad on completing his doctorate.

ADJOURNMENT: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting.