

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
May 13, 2026

RECEIVED
By Michele Urch at 10:04 am, May 26, 2026

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 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
.....David Rusnock
.....Chad Lemmens (Zoom)

ABSENT:Sam Lombardo
.....Jackie Guzie
.....Andrew Joly
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....Christopher Parker

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. New 5k Road Race Route
 - b. Update on Bandstand on Town Green
- G. New Business
 - a. Town Budget
 - b. Middle School/McAlister Courts
 - c. Summer Fair & Event Volunteers
 - d. Other
- H. Other
- I. Adjournment

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 recapped Dan’s report regarding t-ball, horseback riding, pickleball, and adult recreational volleyball.

Donna finished the cheerleading program and is very happy with the new instructors. The End of Season Bowling Buddies Luau Banquet was one of the best. Peter thanked the Conservation Commission and Chad for being great hosts at Sunrise Park.

Both Donna and Dan are very busy preparing for summer camp. Dan is administering the lifeguard training course at a reduced price. We are working with Wayne Patterson at the Academy for use of the pool and its great partnering with them. We have a great crew, but they are aging out, and we are looking for new staff. We have one of the highest pay rates in the state.

OLD BUSINESS:

New 5K Road Race Route: Peter said that we are still working on the route. It has not been measured as to where to turn. It needs to be remeasured. We are still going with the route. Peter reviewed the turn area he would like to have. The commission discussed different start routes to make the route work. Various starting points were discussed but Peter said he would like to have it start at the front of McAlister.

Bill said he does not like people turning and running against those coming at them. He said he will measure from various places to see what will give us the distance required.

The commission discussed various routes and how they might add the needed distance to the route.

Bill said he will contact the police chief to set up a meeting with Peter to discuss the road race.

Update on Bandstand on Town Green: We are still on schedule to have the bandstand installed on the 1st week of June and to have all construction completed by the end of June. Some of the work needs to wait until the building is on the foundation as measurements cannot be precise until this is done. There is an ADA access which has to be completed along with some other items.

Brian said that Elzer Roy does a great job.

The Rotary is waiting to set the date for the grand opening just to be sure the project is done. They would like to have it on July 3 as the original bandstand was opened 50 years ago on July 3.

Donations are being accepted for the project at the Rotary Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Budget: The budget passed and Peter was told that all the requests we put in, with the exception of the master plan, were approved. We will put in a request for the master plan next year.

Peter reviewed the requests that we put into the budget.

Middle School/McAlister Courts: Peter said he had a complaint from a resident that the people playing basketball were behaving badly. We shut down the courts due to this: smoking, trash, swearing, and bad behavior. There were people playing pickleball who were affected by this. Peter spoke with Chief Cannon, and the area car made a few extra patrols. He spoke with the captain this morning and so far, no complaints to them. This happened on the first night the courts were opened, and we tried to nip it right away. Patrols will be kept up.

Brian asked about adding signs. Peter said he will look at what signage is there. Signage and cameras were discussed. There are cameras at the school, but Peter doesn't know what they monitor.

Bill asked if the cracks in the courts are going to be fixed. Peter said he noticed them last fall and he reached out to the landscape architect company who reached out to the installer. The work is out of warranty but out of goodwill the installer will fill the cracks.

Summer Fair & Event Volunteers: Peter asked what the best way to notify people about opportunities for volunteering is. The consensus was that a text message is the best way. Peter will email the form first and then when a volunteer opportunity arises, he will send out a text message with what the volunteer need is.

Other: The youth volunteer inquiry and participation policy came about because we have middle school, high school and some college student parents who are tracking down volunteer opportunities for their children. Peter said some of the purposes of volunteering are learning independence, developing community skills for reaching out and civic engagement. If a parent or guardian calls, they are told that it is our policy that the child is to reach out to us directly via email, phone, on-line form, or in person. If the youth needs assistance or redirection we can work with the parents. This is to make sure the youth wants to be there and know what they are going to do.

Brian suggested a change in the wording to clarify age. After youth, put in parenthesis, middle school to college aged youth. This would clarify to parents the ages we are talking about.

Bill made a motion that the document be implemented with any necessary changes that are forwarded to you from any members of the commission and once you revise anything you send it out to us for a final review. Dave seconded the motion.

All voted yes.

Brian said the hiking group concept which Chad mentioned at the last meeting is a great idea. Chad talked about how the group was started, things that have been done and plans for the future.

We neglected to vote for officers last month. We can vote tonight or put on next month's agenda. The consensus was to put the elections on next month's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting.