

Playground and Recreation Meeting
January 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Town Offices Hearing Room

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

Call to Order: Aspden Call to Order OPEN SESSION 6:01 pm @ Somerset Town Offices – Hearing Room, 140 Wood St. Somerset, MA 02726 Announced that the meeting is being recorded. . Roll call: Members, Maryellen Aspden, Josh Darlington,, Jennifer Gaw and Director Barry Fontaine in attendance. Absent - Jeffrey Kardel and Jim Pereira

Minutes of December 10, 2025 – Darlington motioned to approve December 10, 2025 minutes as submitted. Gaw seconded. – Roll call vote: Aspden - aye, Darlington - aye, Gaw - aye. All in favor, motion passed. .

Bills were circulated for signatures.

New Community Preservation Act (C.P.A.) Projects and Discussion of Program

- **Athletic Lights at O’Neill** - estimate came in at \$400,000.
- **Splash Pad at Pierce Beach** - estimate between \$140,000 and \$150,000

Both projects have been approved for eligibility at the December 18 meeting. At the most recent selectmen’s meeting Selectman Allen Smith has suggested removing the CPA funding program. More discussion needed before adding it as an article to town meeting.

Status of Community Preservation Act (C.P.A.) Projects

- **Pierce Beach Basketball/Tennis Court/Pickle Ball Courts** - striping is done and looking to have the nets removed.
- **iuBicycle Playground at Pottersville** - Status of Spring project
- **Engineered Wood Fiber at Recreation Sites** - Waiting to get a status of when the project will start.

Updates on Facilities - Distributed to board. Still waiting on the cameras for Pierce Beach. The middle school DC Dunk is this coming weekend. The changing rooms will be open but not the bathrooms.

Summer Employment Accepting applications. New this year anyone under the age of 18 that applies must fill out a working permit. In contact with the school department.

Summer Beach Fees and Passes - Fees will remain the same as they were last season. Residents blue and Non-Residents red for the season passes.

All Day Summer Program Fees and Tentative Schedule - Can not use North Elementary due to the possibility of window replacement. Possibly will use South Elementary. Fontaine will tour the site for logistics. Topic will be tabled to next meeting in order to finalize plans, programs and flyer.

Summer Concerts - Schedule is almost finalized. The board agreed to have the series run until August 19 with Bare Bones Acoustic performing and incorporate the Cardboard Boat Regatta at the start of the night. A separate flyer will be created for this special event.

2026 Field Permit Application - Included in packet to board to review at convenience and will discuss at the next meeting.

FY27 Budget Discussion - Sent proposed budget to the Town Administrator and reviewed changes with the board. Asking for more money to pay beach staff. We do not want to have to raise beach fees. The All Day Summer Program fees cover those 20 or so staff members. We don't know how or when the budget will be heard this year yet.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS - None

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting - None

Citizen's Input - None

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6pm at location TBD

Close meeting: Gaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm. Darlington seconded. - Roll call vote: Aspden – aye. Darlington - aye, Gaw - aye. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gaw

Clerk