

Town of Orange

Minutes – Recreation Committee meeting 7/10/24 – Orange Town Hall

In attendance: Dirk Anderson, Betzy Bancroft, Janis Blais, Rod Coronado, Dave Gomo, Eric Holmgren, Kristin Payia, Mike Raboin, Kevin Wilson, Lee Youngman

Call Meeting to Order

At 6:35, meeting moderator Janis Blais called the meeting to order. Kevin Wilson moved to recess the meeting until the Planning Commission Meeting was concluded. Dirk Anderson seconded. Motion passed.

At this point, members of the rec committee joined the already in process planning commission meeting. The planning commission members invited recreation committee members to give feedback on the town forest management plan. The planning commission will engage a forester to help with a new forest management plan. Lee Cataneo notified those present that the last management plan was completed in 1999, can not be located, and the PC has agreed to just start fresh. We will have a new county forester, AJ Follensby, starting in September. Mike Raboin volunteered to contact him on behalf of the planning commission. Those present explored other uses for the town forest management plan besides timber management: biological inventory of riparian areas, water anagement and biodiversity, wildlife habitat, earth resources, connectivity to other forests (state forest abuts our property), as well as recreation. Raboin pointed out that Dept of Parks and Recreation has resources to help. Cattaneo also offered that CVRPC can help. The planning commission has a \$1000 budget.

At 7:12 pm, Lee Youngman moved to reconvene the Recreation Committee meeting. Betzy Bancroft seconded. Motion passed.

Approve Agenda

On a motion made by Youngman, and seconded by Bancroft, the agenda was approved without changes.

Select Secretary

On a motion made by Anderson and seconded by Bancroft, Lee Youngman was appointed secretary for the meeting.

Approve minutes from previous meeting

On a motion made by Youngman and seconded by Kristin Payia, the minutes of the 6/19/24 meeting were approved as presented.

Review Town forest with Planning Commission

The committee agreed that agenda item 5 had been covered in the planning commission discussion memorialized above.

Visit Town Recreation Field and discuss budget expense needs

On motion made by Youngman, The committee voted to delay the planned visit to the Recreation Field and discussion of the field's needs to due heavy rain.

Review Gazebo Budget

Raboin informed the committee that the town has not yet received the FEMA award for the Gazebo, but received the insurance settlement in 2023. The Gazebo budget is in the negative until we receive the FEMA money.

Youngman presented a proposed budget for furniture, stain, mulch and plants for the Gazebo. She reported that she reached out to Sue Perreault for input on Gazebo decisions, but hadn't heard back from Sue. She asked the committee to consider adding a plaque crediting the Richardson Family, Lyle Barnes and the Tucker Family for their generous donations of seed money and benches for the Gazebo.

Holmgren suggested we prioritize needs according to how much money is raised. The committee members present agreed.

Review Fundraiser Updates (coin drop, pie for breakfast, car show)

Pie for Breakfast: Raboin reported that Ginny Raboin is interested in doing this, but doesn't think August 10th gives us enough time. She asked to get commitments of pie and time from committee members. Raboin suggested we could get together a few nights before the event to bake pies in bulk. Payia offered to put out feelers on the Town of Orange Resident Facebook chat group, Youngman volunteered to post it on Front Porch Forum. The group set the date for September 10th. Youngman offered to schedule it on the town hall calendar. Eric Holmgren offered to cover a 5 gallon container of stain and help organize a volunteer staining day.

Coin Drop: Janis Blais reported she had discussed a coin drop with John Pellegrini. There's an application we need to complete. No cruiser is necessary, but police presence is. Kevin Wilson volunteered to check with Diane at the office about insurance coverage. We will need proper signage. Payia offered to check with PTA for signs; Wilson said we might be able to borrow signs from Washington or Barre Town fire departments. We are targeting an October 5th date with October 12th as back up.

Car show: Payia reported that we could expect anywhere from 50 to 100 cars. We need to write sponsor letters, secure door prized, recruit food trucks. Consensus among the group was that the Recreation Field is not suitable because of water problems. Where else in town could we hold it? Blais offered to contact the Childs' family to see if we could do it in their field. Youngman suggested we don't have time this year to pull it off, but we should focus on this for next year as the town's signature event, and really plan it out in great detail. The group agrees this could be a huge event for the town.

Review Governance Policy

On motion made by Youngman, this was tabled until the next meeting.

Discuss other business

None

Determine next agenda, moderator and time/date

1. Call meeting to order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Select Secretary
4. Approve minutes from July 10th meeting
5. Review Governance Policy emailed by Youngman in advance of the June 19th meeting
6. Gazebo updates: fundraising, letter writing and pie commitments, budget, date
7. Coin drop update
8. Rec field needs (through lense of car show, perhaps? Visit Rec Field
9. Discuss other business
10. Select moderator for next meeting
11. Determine agenda for next meeting
12. Adjourn

Blais suggested we fix the meeting date as second Wednesday of the month. Anderson made the motion to set meeting dates for second Wednesday of the month at 6:30. Youngman seconded. The motion carried. The meeting will be held at the Town Recreation Field.

On a motion made by Holmgren and seconded by Wilson, Mike Raboin was appointed moderator for nest meeting. At 8Pm, the meeting was adjourned.