

Town of Orange Recreation Committee

Meeting date: 12/18/24

Orange Town Hall 6:30 PM

In attendance: Dirk Anderson, Betzy Bancroft, Janis Blais, Dave Gomo, Eric Holmgren, Kristin Paya, Mike Raboin, Ginny Raboin, Emily Ruff, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson, Lee Youngman

Guest: Tim Stone

1. **Call to Order:** At 6:37 PM, Meeting Moderator Kristin Paya called the meeting to order.
2. **Select recording secretary:** Lee Youngman volunteered to take minutes.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Lee Youngman made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to add a discussion of the Tree Lighting event under other business. Betzy Bancroft seconded the motion. Passed.
4. **Approve minutes from the 10/16/24 meeting:** On a motion made by Dirk and seconded by Betzy, the minutes from 10/16/24 were approved.
5. **Report back on guidance doc discussion/approval by select board:** Lee described select board edits and Wayne Symonds' concerns about the insurance provisions. After discussing whether to remove all references to insurance for events not held on town property, the committee decided to adopt Symonds' edits to the final section as is. Sheila Stone would like the document to be further amended to include language prohibiting substance use at Recreation Committee-sponsored events. Lee also suggested we change the date/time of meeting back to its original language to state "at such times and places" rather than "3rd Wednesday of the month". Youngman made a motion to suggest these further amendments back to the Select Board. Dirk Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6. **Discuss reporting to select board on rec committee activities, fundraising efforts etc.** this included recommendations for uses of money raised (ie: we had discussed that the \$\$ from the Pie for Breakfast event would support gazebo improvements, but we never shared that with the SB). Dirk volunteered to prepare this report and share it with the committee prior to the next meeting. We will add it to the next agenda for discussion.
7. **Discuss email from Steve Simpson re: repainting the Welcome to Orange sign.** Sheila is willing to talk to Wendy Daggett about the sign. Sheila will report back to Kevin, as the representative of the SB on this committee. Kevin got pressure treated wood, and got primer donated by Barre Paint and Paper. Paint needs to stick to pressure treated wood, and mount needs to be weather-resistant.
8. **Discuss 2025 Rec Committee budget to present to select board.** On a motion made by Lee and seconded by Janis, the committee approved a recommended 2025 budget of \$7000, to be allocated as follows: \$1500 to cover power and insurance at the Rec Field, \$1500 to cover mowing of the Rec Field and \$5000 to cover town recreation area improvements (material to resurface the recreational access areas, drainage improvements, etc) Lee will email this language to Chelsea and Kevin will discuss it during the budget meetings. The motion carried.

9. Begin discussion for snowshoe date in town forest . Lee, Dirk and Janis can shoot for clearing the trail the weekend of February 8th, and schedule for the 22nd. Meet at the town clerk's office at 1PM and carpool over. Easter egg event on Saturday April 19th. Emily will look at surrounding towns to see if there are conflicts. After discussing timing issues, we decided against trying to plan a Sugar on Snow Party in 2025.

10. Pick a date for snowshoeing tour of town forest : This was covered in agenda item 9.

11. Discuss and develop upcoming fundraiser ideas.

- Car show: Do it as late in the season as possible (August/September) . Kristin will look at the car show schedule for summer and fall and we'll try to pick a date that doesn't conflict with other car show events.
- Hunters Breakfast (November 15th).
- Spaghetti Dinner (May 17 or 18)

Lee volunteered to send those dates to Chelsea to get them on the town's radar. Once we have fleshed out plans, we need to send them to the Select Board for approval.

12. Other business: Lee reported 18 people came to the Christmas Tree Lighting, including two families with 5 kids. Activities were Christmas tree decorations and they now adorn the tree. Food was good, lights are gorgeous. Lee hopes we can make it a signature event. Sheila commented that she hopes more people come next year. She did not attend the event but heard that there were substances passed around. She feels these events should be treated as if they are church or school events, and we are representing the town.

Other business: Do we bring up the topic about attendance at this meeting, and ability to meet quorum. It's covered in the guidance document and committee members will be asked to read and sign it.

Other business: Kevin pointed out that all meetings need to be recorded and we are not in compliance with open meeting law right now because we are not recording this meeting.

13. Select moderator for next meeting: Next meeting will be January 15th. On a motion made by Lee and seconded by Janis, Mike was nominated as moderator for next meeting.

14: Agenda for next meeting on January 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm:

- Call to order
- Select recording secretary
- Approve Agenda
- Approve minutes from 12/18/24 meeting
- Review proposed Recreation Committee report for town report – to be circulated in advance of meeting by Dirk
- Revisit the date of our meeting. Is there a day that works better for the majority of committee members?
- Finalize Governance document
- Finalize planning for snowshoe tour of town forest: assign tasks, decide on related activities and plan publicity

- Finalize planning for Easter Egg Hunt: assign tasks, decide on activities and food and plan publicity
- Revisit the idea of a kayak/canoeing day on the reservoir. Before the next meeting, discover whether canoes and kayaks are permitted and identify access points.
- Begin to plan for Car Show, hunters breakfast, spaghetti dinner. Decide on feasibility for Car show, assign tasks and begin to plan a marketing campaign.

15. **Motion to adjourn:** On a motion made by Lee and seconded by Janis, we adjourned at 8:12 pm