

Town of Orange Recreation Committee meeting minutes 9/3/25

Present: E Holmgren, J Blais, M Raboin, S Stone, G Raboin, K Wilson, B Bancroft

1. Call meeting to order 6:35 PM
2. Approve agenda with revision: #5 budget discussion will be with town treasurer instead of select board members. Motion KW, second GR
3. Appoint secretary – BB volunteered
4. Approve minutes – Motion EH, second KW
5. Budget discussion with new town treasurer Bill Crowther

3 points: thank you to all of you for making Orange a better place, communication is important, play nice together.

Town of Orange is using NEMRC accounting software system

Currently the Rec Comm budget is \$41 but we know this isn't correct

Bill brought printouts of past records to meeting as requested at previous meeting by E Ruff.

2023 - \$1300 budget passed Town Meeting; this was to cover mowing, electricity and property insurance for the recreation field. John Barnes took on mowing and was great at coding accounts.

Communication between Rec Comm and Town accounting broke down after this, and money budgeted has not been properly placed in accounting. For 2023 an amount of \$1301.50 was recorded after an adjustment for lawn mowing (\$1000) by select board.

2024 – deficit transfers yearly budget, \$1500 budget approved at Town Meeting; money entered into account. \$1300 put back in to 2024 budget to lower deficits.

Lawn mowing budget for Rec field is \$990.

Budget still messy, Bill is trying to unravel; bookkeeper/town clerk acted according to what they were told, but details were apparently not communicated, leading to discrepancies in budget.

2025 - \$5000 budget passed Town Meeting; select board took out maintenance so that budget would be purposed for upgrade and maintenance of the Rec field.

JB asked if money will be able to be figured out.

KW asked where fundraising funds went.

Treasurer Bill is looking for minutes of Rec comm and Select board meeting minutes for discussions of budget, when lawn mowing separated, etc.

Fundraising proceeds: \$51 for undetermined; Pie for Breakfast \$685; Donation for trails \$900; Spaghetti supper \$345; not sure if any of these are listed in Rec budget accounts.

Further discussion that statute requires residents of Orange at Town Meeting to consent to where Rec committee money is spent; disagreement among committee members that this is correct; GR volunteered to look this up/ask Darlene, the support specialist from NEMRC. Bill suggested that “friends of the Rec comm” can spend the money. Darlene clarified via email to GR that funds can be spent for recreation activities and facilities.

EH made a motion to table further budget discussion; second GR. Agreement that we need to clarify our expenses and rules around spending them.

Treasurer encouraged us to all get along within town; Rec committee agreed and expressed no animosity toward the treasurer, just appreciated his help figuring out all the confusion with the budget.

KW has a flyer for grants for playground equipment, discussed work at the Rec field.

MR suggested a management plan for the Rec field would be a good thing.

GR asked to close the loop on budget discussion; will scan budget docs and forward to Rec comm members; looks like Rec comm will need to allocate our budget balance yearly, shared Darlene's info with us. JB offered to be the Rec comm liaison to the town treasurer. We need to remind the new town clerk to post our budget items.

EH suggested tabling other discussion to skip to town forest, OKed by all.

MR discussed ordinance giving Rec comm responsibility for overseeing town forest; is there such an ordinance? Apparently town ordinances have also been lost, although some have been found and updated. Also make sure we have legal access via Beard Road; KW says yes we do.

JB discussed the Quechee Lakes wilderness trails; good access/parking, well maintained and accessible trails; clear maps; clear dog policies (leash, poop bags)

For grants for Town Forest, Rec comm members can write grants but we should go through the Grant committee too.

Select board has tabled discussion of the Town Forest for now.

MR discussed work day at Rec field on Saturday Sept 27 at 9 am. Please bring hand/power tools.

- Clean around the electric meter

- Clear brush

- Check out ditches

- Check wash outs/erosion

- Tear down old buildings?

Because the field is dryer in September it is likely a good time for events there. Possible events:

- Flea market/yard sale

Also need an outhouse or porta-potty at the field.

7. Tabled discussion of more fundraisers.

8. Nominated MR moderator for October meeting.

Agenda for October

1. Call to order

2. Select a recording secretary

3. Approve agenda

4. Approve minutes from 9/3/25 meeting

5. Budget discussion

6. Updates on Rec field

7. Fundraising discussion

8. Event checklist discussion

9. Other business

10. Select moderator for November meeting

