

Orange Recreation Committee meeting

12/3/25

Members present: Janis Blais, Sheila Stone, Dave Gomo, Eric Holmgren, Ginny Raboin, Mike Raboin, Kevin Wilson and Betzy Bancroft

Moderator SS called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

BB chosen as secretary

Added town report and mowing to the agenda.

Agenda approved: JB motion, GR second.

Minutes from 10/1/25 approved: GR motion, KW second.

Budget discussion:

KW spoke with Selectboard about the \$5000 allocated to Rec Comm last year; those funds were allocated to the Rec Comm in 2025 and the same amount is on the budget list for 2026 Town Meeting. All funds raised by the Rec Comm in 2025 have been allocated to our account. Future proceeds from fundraisers will be tracked by paper form to provide journal entry for the funds. This form is listed on the event checklist. We're hoping to clear up with the town clerk and Selectboard what accounts to put Rec Comm funds in. Bill the treasurer was waiting for permission to move Rec Comm money to our account. Resolved to communicate with Selectboard that Rec Comm budget totaled about \$7000, so we should see our balances reflected in the accounts. JB will reach out to Bill to pin down our budget and accounts. We need to finalize this before town report is due before the end of December. Request that annual allocation be available to Rec Comm by summer so we can pay for rec field upkeep, mowing, improvements.

Recreation field:

Neighbor Gerard Proulx will help with digging ditches; KW will brush hog in the spring.

Fundraising:

Tri-Village Fire is needing to upgrade equipment and could use funds. Can we help with fundraising? Perhaps a coin drop in Topsham in the spring?

Event Checklist:

Finished, printed and located in KW's file box in the town office.

Town Report from Rec Comm:

Last year's report has been located, and JB, SS and BB volunteered to meet and work on a report for 2025 to be included in the yearly Town Report. Report will be shared with the rest of the committee for feedback before it is submitted to the town clerk.

Nature trail across from Orange Center School:

School is interested in re-establishing the nature trail on town land across from the school. KW will find out what that area's acreage is, and Rec Comm members will collaborate with the school on this project in the spring.

Rec field mowing:

Neither the person who previously mowed the rec field nor a new person who bid on this job have workman's compensation insurance for their employees, so they aren't legally able to do this job.

Mowing the rec field needs to go out to bid, and credentials need to be checked when the bid is awarded.

Discussion of access to the town forest:

Trail head may be able to be located at the intersection of Beard Road where it forks right to the forest and left toward the old dump. More discussion needed on this.

Christmas tree for town hall gazebo was discussed; KW offered to find a tree. Town has lights, etc. donated last year by Dave and Laurie Gomo.

SS nominated MR for moderator for January meeting; KW second.

GR motioned to adjourn at 7:43 pm; DG second.