

Town of Orange Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 6:30 PM, Orange Town Complex

In Attendance: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Janis Blais, Betzy Bancroft, Kevin Wilson, Michael Raboin, David Gomo, Emily Ruff

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by moderator Michael Raboin.

Secretary: Emily Ruff was selected to serve as Recording Secretary.

Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes: December meeting minutes were reviewed. Kevin Wilson motioned to approve, Janis Blais seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Discussion: The committee reviewed the current financial status, including \$5,000 town allocation, \$900 donation earmarked for town forest, and proceeds from pie fundraiser and spaghetti dinner. Unrestricted assets are approximately \$5,600. No additional budget request will be made for the upcoming fiscal year. Committee members recommend that a separate account be established for the town forest revenue generation and expenditures.

Town Meeting Discussion: The committee prepared talking points for the upcoming town meeting, including summary of fundraising activities completed (spaghetti dinner), Easter egg hunt event, Town Forest management plan, intention to develop a recreation field management plan next year. It was recommended to deliver the report based on the written report provided to the Town Report. Janis Blais will present on behalf of the committee

Fundraising Discussion: The committee plans to host another spaghetti dinner in May with the following considerations:

- Offer both dine-in and takeout service.
- Provide to-go containers for takeout option.
- Solicit donations for rolls, green beans, and cookies.
- Serve rolls and cookies in separate container to-go.
- Consider hosting on a Friday night instead of Saturday
- **Action item:** Janis Blais will inventory paper products and supplies

The committee discussed hosting a "Pie for Breakfast" event in the fall.

Updates on Recreation Field and Town Forest:

Recreation Field: A Recreation Field Management Plan will be discussed at the April meeting. The lease agreement with the state is currently in progress. A resident has generously volunteered time and equipment (chipper and mini excavator) for field improvement work. Committee proposes developing a simple accessible trail suitable for dog walking and general recreation.

Action item: Committee will review the property in the spring after snow melts to begin assessing needs.

Town Forest: County Forester AJ Follensbee will begin assessing plans and timeline for implementing forest management plan.

Other Business:

Easter Egg Hunt: Easter Sunday falls on April 5, 2026. Proposed event date Saturday April 4th 2026. The committee will coordinate timing with Barre Recreation to avoid scheduling conflicts; e.g. if BOR hosts a morning event, the committee will schedule our local event for the afternoon. Sheila Stone volunteered to secure the popcorn machine and David Gomo has easter eggs to donate. The committee needs to discuss providing prizes, and the location needs to be secured. The committee will discuss this event at the March 4th meeting.

Grant Opportunity: Janis Blais proposed the AARP Community Challenge Grant: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2026/2026-challenge.html>. The deadline is March 4th.

Selection of Moderator for March Meeting: David Gomo was selected to moderate the March meeting.

Adjournment: At 7:25 pm, Betzy Bancroft motioned to adjourn, and Sheila Stone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Selection of Recording Secretary
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Prior Minutes
5. Easter Egg Hunt
6. Spaghetti Dinner
7. Recreation Field
8. Town Forest
9. Other Business
10. Selection of Moderator