

Town of Orange Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes

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

In Attendance: Eric Holmgren, Betzy Bancroft, Kevin Wilson, Michael Raboin, Ginny Raboin, David Gomo, Emily Ruff

Call to Order: David Gomo called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Kevin Wilson; seconded by Michael Raboin. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Motion to approve February meeting minutes by Betzy Bancroft; seconded by Ginny Raboin. Motion passed unanimously.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 1:30 pm at the Orange School campus. Kevin Wilson will retrieve eggs from Town Hall basement and deliver them to David Gomo on March 5th. The Gomo family will supply candy. David Gomo will set up golden eggs (goal of 3–5), and will source two small Easter baskets or plush animals. Sheila Stone contacted the school last year to reserve the space and will do so again. Betzy Bancroft has small plush bears available to contribute. Ginny Raboin will update last year's flyer with new dates and confirm "Orange campus" as the location. Ginny will also supply water and juice boxes, and will pick up some Squishmallows from Target. Sheila Stone will bring the popcorn machine. Committee members will meet at the school around noon on the date of the event to set up snacks and place eggs. Location of decorations from last year is uncertain.

Spaghetti Dinner: The Spaghetti Dinner is proposed for Friday, May 29, 2026, 5:00–7:00 pm. David Gomo will make spaghetti sauce and Kevin Wilson will make spaghetti. The committee reaffirmed the February decision to offer both dine-in and takeout service, with to-go containers available for the takeout option. A 50/50 raffle drive was recommended during the dinner. Ginny Raboin will update last year's flyer. A committee member will audit which container types are in current inventory; Eric Holmgren is able to obtain additional containers if needed. Rolls, cookies, and green beans will be acquired through donations if possible; a committee member will be assigned to solicit those donations at the next meeting. Suggestion to use zip-lock bags to serve rolls and cookies in separate containers. Emily Ruff will confirm the date is available to reserve Town Hall. Committee will continue planning at the April meeting.

Current supply inventory (per Janis):

- To-go containers: 40
- Styrofoam cups: ample supply
- Spaghetti: 2 large boxes (64 oz each)
- Coffee filters, napkins, tea bags, lemonade mix (makes 8 quarts), 50/50 tickets, plastic silverware, paper plates: all well stocked

Recreation Field: Kevin Wilson reported that the lease is still in progress. The state is now discussing a three-year lease rather than the originally proposed five-year term. Kevin will follow up with Steve to identify the appropriate state contact and track progress. There is currently no active mowing contract for the recreation field. Kevin Wilson will haul culverts away for the town and will set aside suitable ones for a future walking path. Emily Ruff proposed inviting a representative from the state Recreation department to offer guidance and resources, and volunteered to research other municipal recreation plans as models. Michael Raboin suggested installing a playground (estimated cost: \$25,000–\$45,000). Committee discussed the importance of an accessible trail suitable for dog walking and general recreation, emphasizing that any trail should go around the ball field rather than through it. Committee will review the property in the spring after snowmelt to begin assessing needs. Continued discussion at the April meeting will help establish a rough sense of the financial needs for the recreation field. A Recreation Field Management Plan will be a primary agenda item at the April meeting.

Town Forest: Forester AJ Follensbee has identified improvement funds available to the logging company to improve the access road. He will walk the land with the state contact for this program to assess road conditions. Following this meeting, A.J. will provide a report and RFP samples to the Selectboard for proceeding with a bid notice. Following that, A.J. will begin flagging the first set of trees.

Other Business: Eric Holmgren reiterated the value of setting project timelines to maintain momentum and will present a draft calendar at the April meeting. Emily Ruff will produce a complete list of current members, including the addition of Philo Raboin, and will include it with the minutes and agenda to request that the Selectboard reappoint members at the upcoming reorganizational meeting.

Selection of Moderator: Emily Ruff volunteered to serve as Moderator at the April meeting. Betzy Bancroft volunteered to serve as Recording Secretary.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Betzy Bancroft; seconded by Ginny Raboin. Motion passed unanimously. David Gomo adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Minutes recorded and draft submitted by Emily Ruff.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Orange Town Complex