

Orange Town Recreation Committee meeting minutes 4/1/26

Present at this meeting: Emily Ruff, Dave Gomo, Kevin Wilson, Ginny Raboin, Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Janis Blais, Betzy Bancroft and new members Philo Raboin and Davis McCarthy.

Meeting called to order by moderator ER at 6:30 PM

BB selected secretary for this meeting

JB motion to approve agenda; KW second; all in favor

BB motion to approve minutes; JB second; all in favor

Committee member introductions: all introduced themselves, what road they live on and why they serve on the Rec Committee; Davis and Philo welcomed. Moderator ER went over guidelines for how meetings are run collaboratively, with rotating moderator and secretary.

Easter Egg Hunt:

KW, SS, DG, GR, etc. have been gathering supplies (eggs, prizes, snacks) and organizing coloring contest and appearance by the Easter Bunny for photos with children. Specifically -

GR - curtain, etc for photo backdrop

SS, GR – crayons, paper, etc.

SS – popcorn machine, tablecloths, key to school

DG – prizes

JB also willing to help

GR will update flyer and distribute; discussed feedback from last year (coloring contest)

Timing of events, rain activity, games discussed by committee.

Spaghetti Dinner:

Friday May 29th from 5-7 pm; Price - \$8/plate or \$30 family

Orange town hall has been reserved; committee will pin down details at May meeting; plan so far:

JB, EH help

SS will get donation of cookies; GR will get donation of rolls; JB will get donation of green beans

DG will bring meat sauce; BB will bring marinara sauce

KW will bring 10 lb spaghetti and grated cheese; SS will bring butter

GR will update last year's flyer and announce at EEH

Committee agreed to donate leftovers to CVMC ED and Good Samaritan House.

Recreation Field:

- Current state of the town's lease on the property is still a question; length of lease 3 years; maybe request longer lease in consideration of improvements Rec Comm makes to field; EH to email select board to inquire about lease? What is covered by town insurance?
- EH – dealing with drainage is a priority
- Resources from Forests, Parks and Recreation are available: ER emailed grant information.
- Gather ideas from residents of Orange to help craft a management plan for the Rec field area
 - baseball diamond utilized
 - pavilion
 - basketball hoops

walking trail

- Consult with other towns' management plans; EH will make copies of town plans
- Clarify parking area to prevent driving on the baseball diamond, mowed field.
- Maybe set up a security camera later on when projects are completed.
- KW got a lock for the storage shed.
- PR suggests site visit in good weather; Monday April 13 at 4:00 pm chosen for committee members to scope out rec field to evaluate water/drainage situation, possible trail location, etc.
- DM asked about any limits from state re activities at rec field.
- EH suggests action plan is needed about stump removal, etc; DM volunteers to take stumps.
- KW sill take out trash.

Town Forest:

Forester AJ walked out to forest with person with the money to improve the road.

EH and KW will follow up with Select Board about this, forest plan

DM volunteered for invasive plant removal; BB offered to collaborate

Need to get update from forester AJ and Select board agreed upon.

Committee Calendar/Milestones:

EH put together a spreadsheet with projects, budget, etc. that Rec Comm can populate as we pin down plans.

Other Business:

Same meeting schedule agreed upon – first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 pm.

JB thanked ER for grants for Rec field from AARP, Tmobile (\$15-20,000); grant committee will try to identify more grants to help with Rec field and Town Forest improvements.

Next meeting scheduled for May 6; same agenda except leave out new member introduction.

JB motioned for ER to moderate May meeting, DG second, all in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm; ER motioned, GR second, all in favor