

**Town of Orange Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**06/03/2026**

**[IN ATTENDANCE]:**

Betsy Bancroft, Philo Raboin, Ginny Raboin, Mike Raboin, Kevin Wilson,  
Dave Gomo, Eric Holmgren, Davis McCarthy, Janis Blais

**[MINUTES]:**

Davis is note taker/minutes.

Betsy approved the meeting agenda.

**Spaghetti Dinner Report**

- Made \$300, \$297 plus \$3 donation from Dave Gomo (thanks Dave)
- Donation Bucket: Totaled \$53 for families in Orange going through hardships
- A town resident asked Recreation Committee to do the spaghetti dinner monthly, big kudos.
- Meals were donated and delivered to families.
- Mike was hoping to do more business, in the future the Recreation Committee should explore alternative marketing strategies: dinner days of week, times of year, etc.
- Recreation Committee needs to verify with the town clerk that the spaghetti dinner funds were deposited into the Recreation Committee account.

**Town Forest Update**

- Additional Recreation Committee members would like to meet with AJ (the forester) to walk the planned logging areas.
- For the creation of hiking trails, is there a trail map created by Central Vermont Regional Planning? No such map can be currently found.
- Logging trails vs hiking trails: in some instances, it may make sense for trails to intersect the logging road areas, but there is no final trail layout or design currently. The Recreation Committee will continue to review utilizing old and new logging paths as part of the trail system. The Recreation Committee will review places where trails should not be built due to water levels or if the trail would disrupt sensitive wildlife or plant habitats.
- During a walk with the County Forester AJ, Davis observed key understory plant Species like Striped Maple that should be removed sparingly while the loggers are active in the forest. A large stand of Canada Yew on top of the mountain (rare in VT). Stand of Balsam Fir near a section of the logging area where some Norway Spruce will be logged. Potentially a good place for a slash fence that prevents deer/moose over-browsing the species.
- Funding for the log landing was not acquired by the town because the grant ran out of funds.
- Committee agrees that the logging should be done in the winter to prevent damage to the forest floor.
- Mike mentioned that logging horses could be potentially used.
- Betsy mentioned leaving the tops of the logged trees for wildlife habitat and understory regeneration.
- Eric mentioned that it should be the Recreation Committee's goal to maximize the profit, but not the \$\$ amount.
- AJ (the forester) said the Orange Town Forest could be logged in another decade after the current project is completed.

- We should have the logging job posted for bids by July, 2026. Orange Town Select Board needs to sign off on scheduling the logging. Janis and Davis will attend the Select Board Meeting on 6/8/2026 to provide insight to the Select Board on the Recreation Committee collective input that the Town of Orange should move forward with the logging despite not receiving the grant for the log landing. As part of the Town Forest Management Plan, AJ (the forester) recommends logging the White Ash that are in decline due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), hence, some of the planned trees to be logged have a shelf life.
- Should the Recreation Committee talk to VAST? Can we collaborate with VAST on trail improvements due to proximity of the trails passing through the Orange Town Forest?

### **Committee Planning Calendar Review**

- Eric created an Excel document for project tracking. Recreation Committee reviewed the document: Monthly calendar to keep us on track, grant tracker, maintenance log, event calendar.

### **Recreation Field Plan**

- Recreation Committee needs to verify the lease from the State.
- The Select Board did accept the AARP grant (walking trails), pending the lease agreement.
- Recreation Committee suggests the field should have a carry-in and carry-out policy for garbage.
- Added trail project to the project tracker for the recreation field.
- The old concession stand should potentially come down. Smaller shed is OK, the larger one is NOT OK. The dugout is OK? What do we want for buildings there? Picnic table? Tents? Band and cookout on the field?
- In July or August the Recreation Committee is considering presenting the town recreation field plan to the town, at the field, with the hot dog machine.
- Recreation Committee need to reach out to ANR to help with the State Dam folks. Eric will action.
- Recreation Committee: Flag pole? Security camera? Considerations for the future.
- Recreation Committee is reviewing a questions from a resident interested in using the recreation field for a NERF league.

### **Other Business**

- Meeting is July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Recreation Committee in-favor of Davis sourcing the trees for the 1,200+ potential seedlings needed to regenerate the logged stands so that when the logging is completed, locally sourced species can be planted.
- Should we add the Calendar to the meeting plan going forward? Yes.

### **Selection of Moderator and Agenda Development for Next Meeting July 1, 2026**

- Eric