

## **Orange Town Recreation Committee meeting August 5, 2026**

Members present: Sheila Stone, Eric Holmgren, Dave Gomo, Janis Blais, Emily Ruff (moderator) and Betzy Bancroft

Meeting was called to order at the Recreation Field at 6:34 pm.

EH moved to approve the minutes of July's meeting; JB second; all in favor

BB volunteered to be secretary.

Recreation field:

RF lease is still in the works -

The original lease contained the wrong address, so Town Clerk and Selectboard returned it for correction; EH hopes they are doing that legally within the context of official meetings; state is working on multiple leases for different towns; discussed being ready to do the work when the lease is finalized since we're on a deadline for grant, ER will follow up with SB about lease; discussed calling a Rec Comm meeting when the lease is finalized to keep timeline rolling; emails between meetings to coordinate but not reach decisions.

Parking Lot -

JB reported that Matt can put millings on the proposed parking lot; KW pointed out later that the millings pile is stuck together from the heat.

Grant specifies two parking places for people with disabilities; Matt needs for Rec Comm members to mark the area for the parking lot; if we have enough material we can make it larger than two spots.

Walking Trail -

Matt recommends granite material for the trail and said the town has a compactor that can be used to compact the walking path; or crushed slate or ledge for path? Material costs calculated by the ton; need to calculate amount by width x length.

Discussions about building trail-- remove sod with a tractor? Use weed cloth under stone? Width guideline is 36" wide with rest areas calculated by slope. Level with existing grass, higher or lower? Guidelines can be accessed from VT Trailway Association.

If trail is shorter than grant, likely AARP will agree to amend the grant.

Other AARP grant considerations -

ER is getting quotes for signage; Davis is getting quotes for benches.

Will town work be billed to grant? Figure out finance with grant/budget.

Other Rec field discussion -

Hope that if AARP grant trail all goes well it will build momentum for other projects at the Rec field; DG suggested we could work on a gazebo project for next year; ask neighbor who volunteered to clean out ditch to dig swale instead?; use topsoil from swale at the town hall?; install a tile drain in the ditch to move water toward far left corner and give us more space over it?; bridge?; budget for tile drain and bridge?

To Do for Rec field:

- Emily calculating measurements for material amount at 48" width

- Janis asking Matt re sod removal, exploring viability of millings, discussing time/cost (whether the committee pays or the town), and quotes for sourcing slate and trail fabric
  - Town crew truck the slate?

Town Forest:

Tabled discussion for now; town does not have the funds to improve the road, so logging will not happen this year.

Rec Comm budget:

Different amounts on different accounting logs; getting that cleared up with SB/Carmella since we haven't spent any of the funds in our budget; KW motion to choose an internal treasurer for Rec Comm to keep track of our budget but no agreement/follow up on that; discussed getting agreement with town about our budget, keeping everything like receipts in our file in the town office; agreed to put budget discussion on September meeting agenda.

Electronic calendar:

same as last meeting

JB nominated ER for moderator for September meeting; BB second; all in favor

ER motioned to adjourn at 7:25 pm; DG second; all in favor