

Johnson Sk8Park & Bike Track Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes for Thursday December 8, 2016

Present were: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, George Swanson, and George Agnew.

1. Call To Order Meeting came to order at 5:08. Casey asked George S. if he would be continuing as Laraway representative? He affirmed that he and Rick Aupperlee are sharing this responsibility, and that he hopes to be able to come to most meetings.
2. Directors Orders Casey reported the only bill was for emptying the dumpster.
3. Site: Manager's Year End Report Nate could not attend but relayed the following via Casey:
 - He thought the hours were sufficient but would have liked to use them differently. His review of the season's time sheets showed that approximately 50% of time was spent on clean-up; 35% on repairs & maintenance; 10-15% on improvements; the rest was for committee meetings and coordination with Casey.
 - He made many contacts, met many riders and families, and felt that "talking to people is key overall" to doing the job and creating a positive atmosphere in the Park. He always talked with people, no matter what other task he was doing.
 - Suggested changes: getting rid of surplus material would make clean-up more efficient. Some smaller items like intact cinder blocks could be locked up. And, the open recycling bins should go: they get tipped over repeatedly.
4. Bike Trail Project: Update Brief review of the project map for George A.; Casey distributed copies of Greg's sketches and the project cost estimate to date. We will find out later this month if we qualify to apply for the Recreational Trails Program grant, which could fund most of the project. Awarded projects are announced in April, but funds are not available until July. We will still apply for other grants.

George A. noted that we should book bands in February for spring fundraiser. Musicians are donating their time.
5. VT Mountain Bike Association Membership Casey learned a bit about VMBA "club membership": it's not a fit for us at this point. They won't help with funds for our info sign (money is only for club support) but they will help with suggested text.
6. 2017 Budget & Report We reviewed draft Directors Report; more info and some edits are needed. We will vote on this in January. Ditto the 12/8 draft of proposed 2017 budget.
7. Town Tax Support: Request for Increase Casey showed a multi-year analysis of selected "core" expenses and reliable (repeatable) income sources. Conclusion: current funding cannot cover costs for adequate personnel time for site management IF we want to continue to improve Park facilities. (Grant-funded improvements require matching funds for larger grant programs).

Howard moved to request an additional \$800 in tax support from Selectmen (a total of \$3800 yearly). George S. seconded. Discussion included acknowledgement that the additional \$800 does not meet all needs but will help us bridge the gap for a few years ahead. Consensus was that site management personnel was essential. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Other Business George S. reported that plans were all set for the pathway between Laraway and the Park. He has permission from landowners Adam Vespo, Gary Foote, the VT Electric Coop, and Ken Harvey for the path to cross their land. Travel on the Rt. 15 shoulder only about 200 ft., and no longer uses the busy LYFS driveway.
9. Adjourn Howard moved to adjourn at 6:03; George A. seconded. Motion passed.