

Johnson Sk8Park & Bike Track Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes for Thursday January 12, 2017

Present were: Jon Girard, George Swanson, Casey Romero, Howard Romero, George Agnew, and new member Rick Aupperlee.

Rick Aupperlee was welcomed and introduced to other members.

Election of 2017 Chair: Howard nominated Casey for Chair, seconded by Rick. Casey was elected to continue as Committee Chair.

1. Call To Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.
2. Minutes of December 8, 2016: Approved by consensus.
3. Directors Orders: None this month.
4. 2016 Directors Report: After review, Howard moved to approve the Report with the understanding that non-substantive edits could be made. Seconded and approved unanimously. Casey will put into Town Report format and deliver on Monday.
5. 2017 Budget: Casey reviewed how the additional \$800 of Town tax allocation income would be shown in Expenses under the proposed Bike Trail Improvement project, and that all Improvement expenses would reflect what was actually received as grant income. Jon moved to approve a Budget of \$41,800 for 2017. Rick seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Bike Trail Project: Update: Casey has begun application for the Federal Recreation Trails Program grant. She will get help from Brian Story and Town Offices, also Lamoille County Planning Commission on several areas like mapping and more. We were told we needed an archeological survey done. The pre-Application did not include history of prior development in the meadow (homes and septic system). Casey emailed this information to the State Archeologist who determines the need for surveys, but has not heard back yet. Rick and George S. have worked with a few archeologists from UVM in similar situations; George thought the fieldwork might take only a few days, but it takes longer to get paperwork and reports.
There are technical trail construction descriptions and specifications required that Casey cannot provide; if Greg Fatigate can't fill in the gaps, she will need to hire some help from a member of the VT Mountain Bike Association (a professional trail designer) who helped Greg with the terrain at Smugglers Notch. Committee members agreed to that idea by consensus. Rick doesn't have background sketch and budget info on the project; he will get them from George S.
7. Other Business: Rick asked about a bridge connecting the Town Park parcel to the ballfields across the river, especially given development of the Rail Trail. The value of such a connection would be great. Howard described the history of looking into such a bridge. An engineering class at Norwich U. developed a design many years ago, which could have accommodated snowmobiles and possibly groomers. That design would have been extremely expensive. A bridge would be wonderful, but even a pedestrian bridge would be very costly. The Long Trail bridge at Ithiel Falls was mentioned as a good design.
7. Adjourn: At 5:37, Howard moved to adjourn; seconded and approved by consensus.