

Draft Minutes for Johnson Sk8Park & Bike Track Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 2, 2020

Present were: Rec Coordinator Lisa Crews, LCSD Sgt. Watson (5:30- 5:45), Selectman Nat Kinney, Rick Aupperlee, Greg Fatigate, Casey Romero, & Howard Romero

Before meeting began, Nat said the Selectboard would address recent Park incidents briefly at their next meeting, acknowledging their concerns.

1. Call To Order Meeting began at 5:03. There were some Zoom tech issues, so some participants occasionally were cut in and out of discussion.
2. Security & Recent Incidents: Guest LCSD Sgt. Christian Watson; Strategies; Equipment Prior to Sgt. Watson's arrival, there was brief general discussion of additional night lighting, and game cameras. Consensus was that a camera was top priority, given several challenges and greater complexity of figuring out placement and security of a motion-activated light. Solar-powered lights are least expensive; Village electricity could cost at least \$800 for service installation. Our public information strategy to date has been to make news public and to ask for more information. We alert LCSD immediately. Casey described that working with multiple officers has been confusing, as was no feedback about No Trespass Orders that could not be served.
Discussion was suspended until Sgt. Watson arrived. He's visited the Park several times recently, and noted no new offensive graffiti although some is indecipherable. The 'Black Lives Matter' tag, which is neatly done, remains intact; defacing that sign would be a problem. Jon checks graffiti daily, and will immediately cover anything offensive. Asked about any progress in the heroin drop, he explained it was an active drug enforcement investigation which always take a long time to build a case. He is willing to be our liaison officer and explained the schedule constraints that can mean a few day's gap in response (so not workable for emergencies). We can work with those gaps, and appreciate what having a consistent LCSD contact. He hopes to discuss game camera options with Sheriff Marcoux on Monday, and will get back to Casey afterwards. If LCSD does not have one to loan or donate, we will purchase one.
3. Signage Casey and Lisa have updated the COVID-19 signs. Healthy Lamoille Valley wants to help create any substance-use signs needed in recreation areas. They collaborated with Lisa on one for Old Mill Park, and want to work with us on signage for the Park. Casey wants to work with them and show possible signs to the Committee. No objections noted. We have 2 older signs from partnership with the Tobacco Task Force; the vinyl banner could be installed any time on the black fence.
4. Draft Minutes of June 1, 2020 Howard moved to approve, seconded by Jon. Approved by consensus.
5. Directors Orders Casey estimated about \$1560 in June Orders, and a very loose estimate of \$4000 to be moved to our Reserve Fund when FY19-20 books are closed. For FY20-21 we have approved operating expenses of \$7950; Covid-19 has already reduced some expected expenses while incurring other new expenses. We still have some grant funds and recently were awarded \$1500 for a tent, some program expenses, and the new sign.
6. Administrative & Outreach Transitions Casey has been working with Lisa regularly on administrative tasks, social media, and the budget. She sees this as the basis of successful committee operation until 2022 and beyond. Lisa sees two areas of concern: recruiting the next generation of Committee members, and someone to write grant applications after Casey retires in 2022. Meanwhile, she and Casey work well together and she is learning a lot about Park history and how we operate.
7. Laraway Report Rick said the Summer Program has begun, all done remotely, and that regular school is expected to resume in the fall.

8. Pump Track Project Report James told Casey he's done about half the expected 50 hours of work, and will finish in July. Project is going well. Greg has rebuilt the start hill, and done regular brush hog maintenance.
9. Site Issues: Water, Repairs, Mowing, Other Casey described the recent water shut off due to some underground break. The Town has Greg's estimate for excavation work, and will probably be making a plan with Brian Krause's input. No word yet on timetable. Jon asked about getting a Portolet sooner than August; Covid use guidelines for general recreation use are less stringent than for camps. Lisa added that we have them on other Town sites. Casey will get one to the Park ASAP.
10. Equipment: Bike Repairs, Storage, Donation/Other Use No progress on the topic, which was tied to the idea of donating bikes at events or programs or the school year. Covid delay, in short. Deferred to next meeting.
11. 2020 Programs, Update The Round Hearth camp that had rented the Park annually for many years (~\$500 fee) has closed for good. Greg said Craftsbury has built a terrain for "dryland" ski training. Bike the Arts Camp is based at RiverArts this year; now SkateCamp will be there also as they currently have no skateboarding coach.
12. Other Business Rick asked about next meeting date: 1st Thursday in August. Nat suggested publicizing positive Park news as we've had such a rash of negative PR lately. Will do!
13. Adjourn Jon moved to adjourn at 6:00; seconded by Greg; approved by consensus.