

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero (via Zoom), Rick Aupperlee (via Zoom), George Swanson (via Zoom), James Whitehill (via Zoom)

Others: Lisa Crews

Committee Members Absent: Greg Fatigate

1. Call to Order

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:34.

2. Draft Minutes of January 12, 2022 Meeting

Howard moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved by consensus.

3. Financial Update

Casey said the committee's proposed budget went into the approved town budget that is going into the Town Report, with no changes.

4. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Lisa said Little League registration is open, basketball is finishing up and skiing is going steady. Howard asked where skiing is taking place. Lisa said at Stowe.

5. Laraway Report

George said upcoming project-based learning will incorporate sugaring. In January science learning incorporated hydroponic growing in the greenhouse. Rick said report cards should be sent out soon. Winter break is coming next week.

6. Continue Discussion from Planning Meeting; Public Input

Casey asked if James has anything on his mind other than what was shared before. James said nothing other than the usual need to refresh after winter.

Casey said news came from Lisa that there is up to \$10K available from VLCT to address safety issues. Lisa said in the past the public works department has typically taken advantage of this. This year the amount available is increasing. Brian Story told her that several departments can put in for grant money and if the total is more than \$10K the town will have to balance the different needs. Casey said she thought of safety issues with the mini ramp. We should look at it when the snow is gone and see if there are any needed repairs related to safety.

Casey said she asked if paving at the skatepark this year could be included with other town paving projects and the answer was yes. The town is working with a new asphalt contractor who likes small jobs and it seems likely they could pave the skatepark. Howard asked if Casey had asked about putting sealer coat over the asphalt. Casey said Jason Whitehill had never heard of that. She read about another skate park's experience with it. After the sealer was put on it was like an ice rink and everyone's wheels got coated in black for a while. Ashton had no firsthand knowledge about it. That doesn't seem like a good option unless further research turns up new information. If we can get paving done, she would love to get the entry road straightened out a bit. She suggested we could have Jason look at it.

Casey said she and Lisa have talked about the possibility of merging the skatepark with overall recreation, making the rec department a parks and recreation department. That would be a more

efficient, coordinated way to administer the different groups. She thinks the next step would be for her and Lisa to talk to Brian and Rosemary about how they see this working. Lisa had suggested that one step that would be easy to do now would be to hold skatepark meetings on the same night as rec committee meetings. She asked what other committee members think of this idea.

Howard said if it would make administration easier that is good. But on the other hand we don't want to see our energy subsumed by other projects. Casey said she and Greg are both interested in trails as well as the skatepark. It makes sense to try to streamline things administratively. We would still plan and budget and look for money for our own projects, but sometimes (for instance with a bridge) they may involve other areas in town.

Lisa said she spoke briefly to Rosemary about the idea and she seemed to think it wouldn't really have much of an effect on anything in the short term.

7. *Seasonal Employee(s) and/or Contracted Work for 2022*

Casey said as Ashton is pursuing other areas of vocational exploration he and Casey have been talking. She told him he should not have the expectation that he will do same thing in the skatepark that he did last summer because he needs a clear horizon to pursue the things that will help him get a paying job. We will be advertising for a part-time employee but could also consider contracting. Depending on who we can find, there could be someone working part-time on things like mentoring/coaching/leadership, public relations and recruiting volunteers and someone else just doing site-specific things like handling trash. She suggested we might start looking in March or April. Lisa said we need to brainstorm what we are looking for. Casey said we should reconnect with the Shred Club at NVU. There may be students who are interested.

James asked if Johnson has someone who goes around and visits the other parks. Lisa said the town public works crew and the village crew provide some help with parks but it is limited because they have so much else to get done in the summer. She has suggested that the public works crew hire a couple of teenagers for the summer to deal with things like garbage and parks.

8. *Other Business*

Howard said a couple of weeks ago he looked at the footage on the camera. There were some cars on the footage, but since the tires that were dumped were not in view of the camera there was no way of knowing which, if any, of the cars left the tires. The camera does give a pretty clear view of license plates. He suggested that people think about a good location to place a second camera.

James said as much as we would love to have people who use the park be stewards and employees, he questions whether someone who wants to be there using the park will do the tasks to the level we would like them to be done. He thinks if a town or village worker was already making the rounds of parks that might be a better solution. Casey said he is right that people who come to skate come to skate. We have to find a way to have someone do the work we need done. It may mean having someone contracted specifically to spend a certain number of hours a week on trash and maintenance.

9. *Adjourn*

James moved to adjourn at 6:04 p.m., Howard seconded and the motion was passed.