

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

**Present:**

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

Others: Lisa Crews, Randall Ingalls, Joey Handy, Kayla Handy

**Absent:** Greg Fatigate

**1. Call to Order**

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:31.

**2. Draft Minutes of March 9, 2022 Meeting**

**Howard moved and James seconded to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022. The minutes were approved by consensus.**

**3. Financial Update & Current Expenses**

Casey said we have no significant current expenses. When talking about priorities for improvements we should bear in mind that we have \$4,800 in grant money but that is earmarked for the sign, and we have \$11,800 in reserve funds. That is money that could be used for a grant match. We have no money in this year's or next year's budgets for improvements.

**4. Recreation Coordinator's Report**

Lisa said she and Casey met yesterday and discussed Green Up day plans. T-ball has started. Adult pickup basketball is on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the JES gym. The rec department is planning dance and gymnastics classes for summer. All the field work has been done at Old Mill Park.

**5. Laraway Report**

Rick said a couple of weeks ago Laraway had an I Kid A Rod event (based on the Iditarod sled dog race.) Someone brought a dog team and sled to school and kids also pulled each other on sleds around the school. Laraway students made a banner about diversity for Legion Field. Sugaring just finished. George said students made enough syrup so all students could take some home and he thinks it will provide enough for the kitchen for a while. The elementary group has been going to the skatepark recently and they have really enjoyed it. The park has had a very friendly atmosphere, according to the elementary school coordinator. Community members have been well-behaved and helpful with students, giving tips about helmets and pads.

**6. Planning & Priorities in Context of Budgets and Fundraiser**

Casey said we are proposing doing fundraising at the June event. It is time to decide what improvement(s) we are going to pursue. We have grant money for a sign. The town is going to expand the parking lot. One thing we have been talking about since 2018 is expanding the concrete feature. That was a proposal we developed to try to get grant money, but we did not get it. She showed the design that was developed. Doing that expansion would allow us to take down the wooden mini ramp, which is in poor condition. Greg Fatigate told Casey that another issue with the mini ramp is that it faces west so people using it get the sun in their faces in summer. The extended bowl would face east. The long-term goal for the park has been to replace wood features with concrete features. Casey feels this is a better thing to pursue than paving the pump track. We have invested in the bike trails over the past couple of years. James agreed that this is a good next step for the park as opposed to paving the pump track. He thinks more people would like skating the mini ramp than the pump track.

Kayla asked, isn't dirt better for bikes? James said he would say either dirt or asphalt is best. The main benefit of going to asphalt or concrete would be that it has been very difficult to keep grass off the dirt.

Casey said the original quote from 2018 was probably around \$20K. In 2021 she asked for an updated quote for another grant application we didn't get. In August 2021 the quote was \$28,700 with a note that a railing and some other items might be additional. She knows the cost will be much more now with building cost increases. She would guess \$35-40K. There is a Vermont State Recreation Facilities Grant requiring a 50% match that will be awarded in fall for the following year. If we did fundraising we could hypothetically have enough for the 50% match.

James said the amount in the reserve fund has been going up since he joined the committee. Casey said it won't go up again this year. We have an approved budget that goes into the town budget. At the end of the fiscal year on June 30 if we haven't spent all of the money allocated to the committee what is left can go into the reserve fund. That is how the committee can build up a reserve fund toward future purchases or improvements. Our personnel costs have been lower than they should have been for the past couple of years and less money has been spent during COVID so we have had surpluses to go into the reserve fund. We possibly could recoup some funds from town COVID payments.

Joey Handy suggested a bottle drive as a possible fundraising method. Kayla Handy suggested lawn cleanups. Joey said Coca-Cola is willing to donate drinks to sell at the June event. Kayla and Joey suggested the committee could also do a fall fundraiser. Lisa suggested we could have a quality receptacle to collect returnable containers. The sixth grade class has someone who comes and picks up redeemable bottles they collect so they don't have to take them anywhere. They make about \$1,000 on a weekend. George asked if there is any chance we can set up a GoFundMe. Casey said we did that for the skills park. We got some money but GoFundMe took much more in fees than they advertise they take in. Lisa suggested we could set up a Venmo. Casey said she would not use GoFundMe. She did a lot of private emailing to solicit contributions. It was work. Lisa said the Burlington bike track is raffling a bike someone donated. Maybe we could get a higher end skateboard or a bike as a donation. Joey said a couple of skateboard companies have agreed to donate prize packs that can be raffled off at the June event. There could also be several competitions with entry fees. When the Talent Skatepark closed and then reformed they did fundraising dinners. A restaurant donated dinners and a certain amount of money for each dinner went to them. If the committee could find someone willing to do that, that could be another fundraiser. Lisa said she thinks Moog's would do something like that. People could be invited to eat at Moog's on a certain date with 25% of the proceeds going to the skatepark. Kayla asked about food for the June event. James said he can pick up burgers and hot dogs at Costco. If we brought in a food truck they would take all our most of the money. James can grill food. Kayla suggested providing vegetarian options.

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

Casey said she had sent out a sample ad for seasonal employees that could be emailed to all NVU students, posted online, etc. We need to advertise now for an employee for the coming season. She suggested that committee members read the job description and offer comments. Rick and James said they thought the description looked good. Lisa proposed having it ready by May 7 so it can be posted at the Green Up Day event. The information can also be available to hand out on slips of paper. Casey said she would also like to get it circulated to NVU. It was agreed to move forward with the appointment as presented by Casey.

**8. Revised Rules Sign**

The committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**9. Events: Green Up Day (May 7), Jam (June 4)**

Casey said there will be a spring cleanup at the skatepark from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Green Up Day. We have grant funds available for the event. We are going to get gnarly bars (blondies) from Two

Sons Bakehouse. The recipe will be provided for people to use at home. This grant is a health-based grant that is focused on nutrition and healthy eating but also healthy activity. We probably will get some fruit as well. We will need to buy balloons, trash bags, etc. It would be nice to have recorded music. Howard said he can set up the music. The event will be publicized on Front Porch Forum, Instagram and Facebook.

James asked if we will be doing other park maintenance at the Green Up Day event. Lisa said she would love to get some other work done if someone is there to guide it. If James is going to be there we can have tools and send people to him to work. James said he can be there. Casey said we have money budgeted for coaches at the event.

Joey said he would like to have a poster for the June event that he can circulate and share online and even have printed. Kayla suggested there could be a similar poster for the May event as well. Casey showed the spring tune-up poster we have used in the past. She is going to update it for the May event. Lisa said some people will stay after this meeting to plan the June event.

#### **10. Other Business**

Casey said she has met with one contractor who will send a crack sealing quote and she is hoping to get another one this week. She may or may not get a third. She learned that there are other crack sealing options besides the “black worms.” Kayla said the “black worms” would not be good to roll over, especially for new skaters.

Casey said there are a couple of cracks in the concrete of the bowl, down towards the bottom. There could be a problem if water gets into them and freezes. She suggested we could ask Jason Whitehill or Greg Fatigate to look at it. Howard said he will take a look at it.

#### **11. Adjourn**

**Howard moved to adjourn at 6:16 p.m., George seconded and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*