

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JENNA'S COFFEE HOUSE, 38 MAIN ST., JOHNSON/REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, George Swanson (Zoom), James Whitehill (Zoom), Greg Fatigate, Alexis Daniels, Dean Locke

Absent: Rick Aupperlee

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:35.

2. Draft Minutes of January 10, 2024

Howard moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2024, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.

3. Draft Mitigation Site Plan for FEMA Claim

Dean recapped the directions for site plan work from the last discussion with Ron Rodjenski and Tom Galinat: the main purpose is to sketch the area for new concrete and prioritize what can be rebuilt by December 2024. The features that need to be replaced are the hip ramp, mini ramp, A-frame, 2 quarter-pipes and dog house. Casey said she is also hoping to get money to replace the mini pads, etc. but that is not part of the discussion tonight.

Greg suggested extending the existing concrete to add new features. James and Alexis concurred. Greg and James talked about issues with using the asphalt. It is not in great shape and is not ideal to skate on and transitioning between asphalt and concrete can be difficult.

Casey said the southern section of the Loop road where the hip ramp used to be needs to be kept clear for electric trucks. The previous location of the hip ramp was not ideal for the electric utility.

Greg outlined a possible layout of features. He said the old dog house feature could be replaced with a quarter-pipe.

Casey asked about a beginner stretch. Greg said concrete is beginner-friendly. Alexis agreed. Casey asked about the little-used stretch of asphalt we were going to use for the Let's Roll program. Do people have thoughts about that? Could it be used for biking? Should we take the asphalt away? Alexis said she doesn't think we need to remove the asphalt. Greg said his only concern would be replacing the asphalt if it deteriorates.

Dean asked which two features the committee would want to try to replace in the coming year. Greg suggested the A-frame and mini ramp.

Casey said the town wants to put out an RFP for a general contractor who would sub out the specialty work, with a construction deadline of December 2024. She is thinking the deadline could end up being extended. Dean said FEMA generally approves deadline extensions.

James said since the mini ramp is similar to the half-pipe we are having constructed separately from the FEMA work, he thinks working towards more diversity before putting in a mini ramp might be a wise decision. He said the A-frame does make sense as one of the next two things to put in. In

addition, he suggested an open concrete space with items like mini pads. Greg said we could plan to have a quarter-pipe return feature at the end of the open concrete area. James agreed that it is important to have a return feature.

George asked how adding more impervious surface will affect our ANR stormwater permitting. Casey said as she understands we are grandfathered to replace the volume we already have. We may be required to add more dirt or take away some asphalt. We will do what we have to do. Howard said once everything is built we can find out whether we have to bring in dirt or dig a hole somewhere. It would be hard to figure it out before it is built. We will do a volume survey.

It was agreed that for the coming year we should plan to put in an A-frame/roller, an open concrete space with boxes and rails, and a quarter-pipe.

Casey mentioned that the town could move the Jersey barrier if that would be useful in the interim, when they come to remove the last two ramps.

James agreed to make a sketch of the plans discussed tonight.

4. ***Other Business***

Dean asked what the committee would think of having the pump track at Old Mill Park. Greg suggested we could have the entire park there. Dean said he has been researching the Act 250 permit for the Old Mill Park area. It has about 12 inches of sand, 8 inches or less of topsoil, and under that there is talc that will release arsenic, so there are issues with building in Old Mill Park. Greg said we would need to add material on top. Casey said there would be less eyes on the park at that location. But why not two pump tracks? It would be an obvious draw for rail trail bikers at Old Mill Park. Dean said the town just bought Holmes Meadow, which is at the end of Old Mill Park. They will be removing soil for flood mitigation. Greg said if we put in a pump track at Old Mill Park he would advocate for using gravel rather than topsoil. Dean said the soil removed from Holmes Meadow could possibly be used for a project. Greg said that sandy soil would provide a nice base for a gravel pump track.

5. ***Adjourn***

It was moved and seconded to adjourn, the motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:27.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths