

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING / REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

**Present:**

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, Greg Fatigate (via Zoom), Alexis Daniels

Others: Isabelle Sullivan, Joey Handy, Adrienne Parker, Kayla Handy

Absent: Rick Aupperlee, George Swanson, James Whitehill

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:36.

**2. New Recreation Coordinator & Social Media Update**

Isabelle Sullivan, the new recreation coordinator, introduced herself and everyone else introduced themselves to her. Isabelle said she looked at the skatepark Facebook page and linked it to Instagram. It is a strange setup, with two pages for the account but only one you can post to. Casey said she needs to meet with Isabelle to discuss some difficulty she had posting to Instagram. (*Kayla Handy arrived at 5:39.*)

**3. Committee Tasks & Structure**

Casey said the committee is hoping to work more in the future with the rec coordinator. When the proposed town budget for the next fiscal year comes out we will find out if her position will be funded with more hours for the next year.

**4. Draft Minutes of October 9, 2024**

**Howard moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2024, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.**

**5. Directors' Orders**

Casey said we spent \$435 in the last month. None of the expenses were particularly notable.

**6. Laraway Report**

No one from Laraway was present to give a report.

**7. Holiday Jubilee**

Casey said there will be a Holiday Jubilee on Saturday, December 7, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. starting with a parade at 3:45. There will be a skatepark table in the temporary library space at the Masonic Temple. She will have t-shirts. We can do a very modest raffle of a couple of odds and ends. Alexis volunteered to help man the table.

**8. Flood Funding Updates: Revised Damage Estimates, State Process, Other**

Casey said we have a total amount of damage FEMA has approved to give to Johnson to pay for repairs. It is about \$161K. We are not currently working with FEMA directly. We are working with Kim Canarecci of Vermont Emergency Management. We will submit our best estimate of work to be done. Kim will review it and ask questions. During the process some estimates will be revised. Once Kim is happy, the budget goes to FEMA. By December 1 we need to get numbers to her. We have all of the numbers we need. We know what the pump track will cost to build. We have the list of remaining things we had planned to repair. Pierre Hall did a sketch of an area extending from the half pipe. That area is larger than what the FEMA dollars will pay for. It is 5,430 sq. ft. For context, the new half pipe was 1,650 sq. ft. and it cost \$41,813. We currently have about \$108K for new concrete construction. So far, we will get 75% of that from FEMA and 12.5% from the state. The other 12.5% will be local. She is told the state funding is locked in and guaranteed. The local money will come from fundraising and from any funding the selectboard approves. Isabelle said the FEMA payment is just reimbursement, so we have to spend the \$161K in order to get it back.

Casey said we need to decide how much to spend on different things. Do we want to cut anything to add to the amount we spend on concrete?

Greg asked, if we know how much we have to spend, can we give that figure to Pierre and ask him to give us a sketch that fits into that budget? Casey said that is where we have to end up but she wants to determine what that figure is. We can add to the amount we have for concrete if we cut dollars from other things we were going to do.

Greg said the skatepark is getting less and less bike traffic and there is just as much use for bikes on a nice concrete skatepark as on a pump track in the field. If we put a pump track in the field, that is for one specific user group. If we put the money into a concrete park, that serves all users. Alexis and Kayla agreed. It was agreed that instead of building a new pump track we can add the \$21,965 estimated pump track cost to the concrete project.

Casey said the former pump track area had dirt harvested from it for the berm. When we start building the concrete area, part of the berm will disappear and we could use the dirt to restore the pump track. She asked what Greg thinks of that idea. Greg said if we can restore it without taking funding from the concrete project, he is all for it. Others agreed.

Casey said we have a \$4K estimate for repairing asphalt in the southwest corner. She is waiting to get another asphalt estimate. We may be able to have that work done in conjunction with other town paving. We may be able to move some of that amount to concrete.

Casey said we got an estimate of \$300 each for wire trash bins with wood covers. We have to spend some money on trash management but she doesn't think we need 5 trash stations. It was agreed that two trash stations should be enough.

Casey said she got a quote from someone local who can build 7 ft. picnic tables for about \$300 each or 6 ft. tables for less. We currently have 2 tables that are in semi-rough shape but usable. It was agreed to go with two new 6 ft. tables.

Casey said the entry sign is in rough shape. We got an estimate from Great Big Graphics of \$1650 for a new sign. Do we want a new sign? Alexis, Kayla and Greg said they think it makes sense to update the sign.

It was agreed that we do not need to replace the map stand, which would cost about \$800 to build.

Casey said the estimate to replace the bike repair stand and air pump is \$2350. Someone told her he thought it could probably be repaired. Greg said any bikers accessing advanced features would be likely to have their own tools. An air pump is good but he is not sure we need to have a wide variety of tools and a bike repair stand. He suggested putting all of that amount towards concrete. Alexis and Kayla agreed. Alexis said she doesn't see it being used a lot.

#### **9. *Concept Sketch for Future Concrete Area; Rider Input***

Kayla described some ideas she had for the new concrete area. Casey asked if people feel the new halfpipe takes away the need for a mini ramp. Kayla said she does. Alexis agreed. Joey said people like the bowl but they think it is a little steep for a mini ramp. Alexis said she likes the A-frame. Joey said it was a popular feature previously. Kayla said it is hard to ride the bowl like a mini ramp when it is busy but with the rest of the park there it will be less busy.

### **10. General Public Input**

Adrienne Parker suggested the committee might want to put in cement picnic tables. Casey said park-supply concrete tables are extremely expensive, but we can talk to the Hall brothers about incorporating concrete tables into their design. Alexis said concrete tables would get skated on.

Adrienne asked if anyone is on the recreation task force. Isabelle said she is. Adrienne said there is a lot of talk about what projects the task force wants to seek grants for. She would encourage the committee to talk to Mark Woodward if there are any projects they want. A lot of the ideas are going to Randall Szott. There is a FEMA person working with his own grant people who can help as well. Isabelle said the skatepark has its own allocated FEMA money and the other recreation areas don't, so it might be a hard sell. Casey said Randall should know our plans for the next phase.

Adrienne said Peter Danforth of the Lamoille County Conservation District works with plantings of native plants to capture rainwater. It might be good to reach out to him. He goes after grants. Casey said that would be something for the Conservation Commission to do.

### **11. Site: Contracted Work, DIY Ramps & Surplus Metal**

Casey said Ashton won't be able to get to Johnson for maintenance work, but Chante is able to pitch in and can do what is needed, so we are covered for the rest of the year and probably the spring.

Isabelle said when she and Tom went to the skatepark they noticed a bent metal piece on a wooden quarterpipe. She doesn't know how that can be fixed or if the metal can be taken away. Joey said he thinks the quarterpipe will rot over winter. Isabelle said Tom is concerned with anything that is not concrete. Alexis and Joey said they will take the quarterpipe away, at least for the winter. Alexis will message the people who brought it in. Joey said he can repair it and give it back to them after winter.

Casey said there are some pieces of curved surplus metal that we might want to incorporate into what we are building with concrete. (*Isabelle left at 6:28.*) Greg said if we are spending \$130K on a new concrete structure we should not put in any old metal that is sitting around at the skatepark. Casey said we can see if Montgomery wants any of it. If no one wants it the town can haul it away in spring.

Greg said with the location of the shed we will continue to have break-ins because the entryway is obscured and hidden from view. There was discussion about closing up the currently used shed door and creating access from the Jail. It was agreed that that would be a good idea. It would add another barrier to entry and would be visible. Howard suggested we could also put motion detecting lights on the Jail.

Joey asked if the committee has ever discussed the possibility of lights at the park for night skating. Casey said that would take a discussion with the selectboard. It would be expensive. She thinks people living in the neighborhood would rather have usage end when it gets dark. Howard said it is cleaner to shut the park down at dusk. But lighting would be simple.

### **12. Adjourn**

**Howard moved to adjourn at 6:37, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.**