

Town of Ballston Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

January 18, 2023 - 7:00PM

Attendance: Eric Connolly, Sally Draina, Steve Hopsicker, Matthew Kniskern, Mary Alice Nyhan, Sarah Statham, & Patrick Whitton

New Business:

Positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, & Secretary were discussed. Ms. Draina was nominated for Chairperson with no opposition. All present agreed and voted unanimously.

No nominations were made for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Draina nominated Amy Jones for secretary, who was agreeable to being the position but was not present. Ms. Draina made a motion to accept Ms. Jones as Secretary and all were in agreement with no opposition. Mr. Hopsicker agreed to take minutes for the current meeting in Ms. Jones' absence.

The formation of sub-committees was discussed and all agreed sub-committees would be by project rather than by individual parks.

Town Board updates:

Dave Brown is the new town Animal Control Officer and Tom Shambo will serve as backup.

The Burnt Hills Forward Projects was discussed and Mr. Connolly stated a Website would most likely be up and running in February. This Committee is not open to the public yet so Mr. Whitton agreed to being the liaison for the committee if anything is possibly related to Parks.

The lot on the North/East Corner of Route 50 and Lake Hill Rd – Discussion on pocket park.

A previous farm land presentation was made to the town board regarding a "Farm Trail" and the Parks & Recs Committee's assistance has been offered if they could be of help in some capacity.

Ms Draina and Rob Fendrick (the Parks & Recs Town Board Liaison) have an upcoming meeting with the Town Supervisor and Comptroller to discuss the Budget. Trust Fund inquiries were made regarding the Anchor Diamond Park Trust and the Executor, BSBN. Further information on the Trust and Budget will be brought to future meetings.

Mr. Connolly mentioned that there was talk of expanding the Town Parks District but that idea was determined to be unacceptable due to the negative financial impact it would have on the town residents during this time of inflation. Future town income from a Hydro Electric Line would have a positive impact on town finances and budgets which could be beneficial to the town parks.

Old Business:

Mr. Whitton opened conversation regarding the current bicycle trail from which he removed a growth of algae; but requested the Highway Dept be contacted for possible follow up in the Spring. The Champlain Hudson River Power Express is scheduled to resurface the path in the future, which could have an impact on this work.

Saratoga Plan had 96 ft of bog bridges put together by a volunteer group on the Blue Trail.

A Committee work day is scheduled for Anchor Diamond park on Saturday January 25 at 10 AM for signage. Additional people have volunteered including Dan Russell and Bob Sack.

The Goode St Extension of Anchor Diamond Park was discussed and the current plan is to consider alternate locations for access.

Terms:

The following current Committee Members' terms will expire at the end of 2023: Amy Jones and Sarah Statham.

Open Discussion:

Ms. Statham has been in contact with Cornell Co-operative Extension re: the infestation at Anchor Diamond Park by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. She received information that an assessment was made on 8/23/22 and it was determined that the park was heavily infected. A chemical treatment was recommended over a Bio Control technique, and a list of vendors was supplied. Funding is limited and unlikely from the DEC. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$20,000 for treatment. Ms. Statham will look into this further with assistance from Ms. Nyhan.

Mr. Connolly suggested that the 10-year plan be completed and submitted.

Discussion was made regarding the Fireman's Grove parking area that was affected by the sewer work, and it was agreed the contractor should be reminded to restore the parking area to its condition prior to their work.

Ms. Draina motioned to schedule further Parks and Recs meetings to start at 6:30PM rather than 7:00PM. All present voted in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Draina will update the town.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hopsicker, member