

Orford Parks and Playgrounds
Approved Minutes of the Meeting
September 19, 2019
Orford Town Offices
7:00

Present: JJ Hebb (Chair), Craig Pelletier, Lawrence Hibbard, Robb Day (Secretary)

JJ opened the meeting at 7:02. JJ, Lawrence and Robb completed the painting of the gazebo at Indian Pond Beach and put up the new signage. Lawrence, Sara Day and Robb also brought in the swim floats and dock for winter storage earlier in the month.

JJ asked for approval of previous minutes.

*JJ motioned to accept June minutes, Craig seconded, all were in favor.

*JJ motioned to accept July minutes, Craig seconded, all were in favor.

*JJ motioned to accept August minutes, Craig seconded, all were in favor.

JJ discussed the work done on the Community Field. Chip Stevens from Diamond Turf has completed the repairs and upgrades to the Baseball and Softball fields. JJ received thanks from Ross Convertino (Rivendell AD). All agreed the work looked good. The job came in \$1000 under budget. Chip did recommend to Lawrence that the field could use some over-seeding. Diamond Turf does offer this service with their slice seeder. The cost for this is \$350 per acre plus seed. Lawrence thought his quote was around \$4000. Lawrence did remark on the turf and felt it needed this treatment. The Committee discussed whether we should wait until the spring or do it now. Robb voiced some concern over the heavy usage of the field at this time and asked if this would affect seed germination. He also felt that this was a good time of the year to seed as we are not set up to irrigate and there is usually more rain in the Fall than the Summer. JJ agreed to ask Chip about this concern and will get back to the group.

*JJ motioned to proceed with the recommendation of the slice seeding to be performed by Diamond Turf to help eradicate the crabgrass taking over the Community Field due to recent grub infestations. Craig seconded and all were in favor.

There was a short discussion on what accounts that operating funds come out of as there are a number of trusts as well as an operating budget. Mark Blanchard (Trustee of the Trust Funds) has spoken about consolidating the trusts into one account. This will be discussed more at a later date.

The basketball court at the Community Field surface cracks were also due to be repaired. It was stated in the quote that the turf area around the court needed to be lowered to allow drainage off of the court. JJ will touch base again with Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing Company and determine when the repairs will be completed and if we needed to remove this berm to allow the work to proceed. Lawrence discussed a few ideas on how to remove the berm. A pressure washer could be used to remove the turf area or a power rake may be used as well. Lawrence felt it will be difficult due to the nature of the fill used when the court was constructed. He felt it was very rocky and difficult to work with.

JJ discussed a change to the use request forms. The form will now read that there will be no parking on the Mall walk when using the Town Common.

JJ moved on to the mowing bid form. The Orford Selectboard will seek out bids for the Town's mowing at the end of October and include the Community Field. There is some uncertainty if there is to be site visits incorporated into the bidding process and Lawrence felt strongly that there should be site visits. This bid sheet was sent to Parks and Playgrounds for their recommendations. A lengthy discussion was had and attached to the minutes is the sheet with desired recommendations and changes.

Craig has been researching different lighting options for the flagpole at Community Field. At this time folks thought that a light at the top of the pole would be best for this application, however it was agreed that since that area is hard to access, it would need to be a quality unit with a long service life. Craig agreed to research lighting further.

JJ motioned to adjourn at 8:40. Craig seconded and all were in favor.

Minutes taken by Robb Day.

