

Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 21st, 2021
Orford Town Offices
7:00

Present: JJ Hebb, Lawrence Hibbard, Robb Day, Harry Osmer and Bill Wilson.

JJ opened the meeting at 7:08. One property use form was submitted to the Chair. The Orford Bandstand Committee is requesting the Common and Bandstand for the evenings of June 30th, July 14th, July 28th, August 11th and August 28th. There is no plans to serve food at these events. JJ asked that the Committee remove their trash and trash cans at the end of each night. The use was approved.

JJ plans to see a second property use request form from a women's softball league. After a short discussion, this request will be approved based on the following:

- Face masks will be worn at all times until at least July 1st.
- The field and parking area must be vacated by 9:00 pm.
- No games will be held after August (date?) due to conflicts with Rivendell Soccer.
- All trash must be removed.

JJ received a quote to repair the basketball court at the Community Field. The scope of the work is to fill and seal the crack that has developed in the middle of the court and seal and paint the whole court. She asked that Robb and Lawrence look it over and get back to her.

Bill Wilson (Orford Tree Warden) attended the meeting to discuss problem trees along the Mall Walk. Robb and Lawrence both made reference to two Maples between the Mall Walk and Route 10. Bill agreed they both needed to come down and they could be felled easily. Bill agreed to solicit some quotes to remove the trees and get back to the Committee. Robb received a request from Carl Schmidt to look at a tree between the Mall Walk and Route 10 across from Patterson's Store. Bill felt that that tree is on private property and the Town of Orford has no jurisdiction over it. The Committee agreed and Robb agreed to contact Carl.

There has been some after hours usage of the basketball court at the Community Field that has drawn some complaints from neighbors.

JJ talked to the youths in question and they have agreed to leave before 9:00 in the future. She will also call Ross Convertino (Rivendell Athletic Director) to get the word out to the other students. The Committee felt that the Orford Police should add the Community Field to his evening patrol to reduce the frequency of these events. Harry responded that this was not an isolated incident and that other neighbors have also complained to him about it. JJ agreed to contact Esther Dobbins Marsh with neighbors concerns.

Signs on the Community Field fence have either been falling off or have been taken off by vandals. JJ said that her family has agreed to reattach the signs in a more permanent manner.

The Rivendell baseball season has begun and there have been some issues regarding the infield. It was determined that due to lack of rain, the infield was powdery and hard to play on. JJ discussed this situation with Chip Stevens and Eric Reichert, Chip suggested that the area be watered to pack the surface. There have been some rain events and the problem has resolved itself. Lawrence has noticed a lack of proper maintenance by the baseball team and brought this up to the players and the Committee. JJ agreed to purchase some new drags and rakes and has had some discussions with Ross and Eric regarding these issues. Robb felt that it may make sense to have Chip talk to the Team and go over routine maintenance.

Clem Powers talked to JJ regarding the Fire Department baseball field and what could be done to maintain it as he is a softball coach for the younger kids. JJ suggested he talk to Robb regarding weed control in the runways. Lawrence felt that the field needed jock sand for the runways after it is weeded.

Robb received another complaint about human feces found at the Orford Playground. The patron of the playground has cleaned up the messes but it seems to be a reoccurring event. Conversations with the police chief have been unproductive and all agreed that this was unacceptable. JJ will contact Ester to bring this up before the Selectboard.

Lawrence has been working at the Community Field and noticed that weeds have started to grow in the baseball field and that Chip should be notified so he can plan his herbicide applications.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54.

Minutes were taken by Robb Day.

