

Orford Parks and Playgrounds
Minutes of the Meeting
May 17th 2023
Orford Community Field
6:00

Present: JJ Hebb, Robb Day

Also Present: Jamie Bourn and Lawrence Hibbard

JJ motioned to approve the April Minutes as read, Robb seconded and all were in favor.

No property use forms to review at this time. JJ reported that Karen Barrett with the Orford Scottish Dancers will be discussing their use of the Bandstand for the 2023 season.

Green Up Day was a success this year. Many roads were signed up for and a thank you goes out to Sandra and Muriel Marsh from Floyds Rubbish Removal for picking up the bags along Town Roads left from Green Up participants.

Robb and Lawrence plan on installing the seasonal flags on the telephone poles along Rt 10 and Orfordville next week.

JJ reported that Kate Lester and Joanne Parker will be both working as beach monitors at Indian Pond Beach this season. Robb and Lawrence will be putting in the docks at Indian Pond Beach later this month or early June with the help of Andy Schwaegler.

JJ opened the discussion regarding the requested rules for the Community Field. Jamie was concerned that this was an addition to the signed lease that had not been agreed to. JJ assured him that this is a request from Parks and Playgrounds for the School and Community to follow certain guidelines to aid in the maintenance and use of the field as well as a reduction in future conflicts due to lack of good communication. Jamie agreed that this could be a good thing and is willing to look it over. He also agreed to bring some of the issues raised in the document to his coaches and staff.

Jamie informed the group that he has negotiated with Coventry Log Homes to donate dugouts for the Baseball Field. Materials will be provided when we would like them and the School/ Committee will need to agree to

install them and remove old dugouts. JJ asked about pea stone for the dugout floors, Jamie felt that would be fine or possibly pouring a concrete slab would be acceptable as well. Jamie would also like to see a scoreboard built at the Field. Jamie suggested that the committee and the school work together for possible funding.

JJ mentioned to Jamie that there are some issues regarding the softball field. It seems as though the pitcher mound and home plate are oriented incorrectly and the distance is wrong. Jamie will touch base with the coaches and JJ will have Chip Stevens (Diamond Turf) look at it.

Jamie will be using chalk instead of paint for lining the fields and will look into a new baseball fence. Robb suggested that a schedule be given to Lawrence to make it easier to schedule maintenance and mowing. It was also agreed to change padlocks to keyed locks for security. There has been issues with water being left on and storage areas being opened by unauthorized people. Lawrence felt that no one should be allowed to drive on the field unless it is an emergency. This unnecessary traffic causes problems with the turf. Jamie agreed.

All agreed that the committee and the school should work together to reduce future conflicts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07.

Minutes taken by Robb Day.

Orford Community Field Requested Use Guidelines

- 1) Please do not drive on the parking area when the gate is up in the off season.
 - The parking area can be very wet in the springtime and during the early baseball/softball season it may be too muddy for vehicle traffic. During that time, we ask that vehicles can park across the road at the school to avoid rutting the parking area.
- 2) During sporting events or practices, it is advisable to not allow parking in front of the vehicle gate accessing the Community Field. This access is to be used for emergencies only as the field turf can be damaged due to vehicular traffic. This damage to the playing surface can have an impact on safe play and is very difficult and costly to repair. We ask that only authorized vehicles access the field.
- 3) The Orford Community Field is one of the best athletic fields in our area and the Town and School can take great pride in this. Respect for the facility should be taught to all Rivendell students. This should include lessons fostered by the coaches to all of the players such as:
 - Please clean up after yourself, and if need be clean up after others. Litter should not be tolerated by coaches or players.
 - Please take ownership of the facilities. Dugouts, water faucets, bleachers, soccer goals, fences, buildings, and the individual fields can be easily damaged due to neglect or vandalism. Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee tries to maintain the facility to the best of their abilities, and it is very helpful to have a considerate partner in this upkeep.

4) Annual maintenance and improvements to the Field are costly and time consuming. Please respect the workers who make this happen. Maintaining high quality playing surfaces is expensive. It involves much more than weekly mowing to keep the quality of facilities to a standard that both Orford and Rivendell can be proud of. Mowing and trimming of the Field is time and labor intensive. Please keep the field clear of debris so the contractor(s) can complete their work in a timely fashion and can focus on the job at hand instead of cleaning up obstacles.

5) There are no pets allowed on the Community Field.

6) Golf balls are not allowed on the Community Field.

7) Water available at the community field is supplied by the Orford Village Water District and paid for by the town. It is turned off during the winter months to protect the lines. This supply should only be turned on and off by the water company. The Parks and Playgrounds Committee keeps locks on the hydrants and should only be used by authorized individuals and kept locked at all other times. Hoses should be stored on the hose racks and not left on the ground. Hydrants should be in the off position after each use even when a hose is attached.

8) Storage buildings are also locked and to be used by authorized individuals only. The buildings and surrounding area are to be kept clean and organized and should not be used as a trash storage area.

Any athletic equipment such as nets, fences, balls, cones, etc. Should be stored properly at the end of their use. Baseballs, old netting, and other equipment can be accidentally mowed over and cause damage to the machines or become a hazard to bystanders.