

Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 21, 2023
Orford Town Common
6:00 pm

Present: JJ Hebb and Robb Day

Also Present: Brad McCormack, Ann Green, Gary Dimick, Eva Daniels and Lawrence Hibbard.

JJ opened the meeting at 6:05 and motioned to accept the May minutes as read, Robb seconded and all were in favor.

Robb had met with Herb Austic to discuss the Orford Bandstand. Herb took a look at it and determined that the framing structure of the floor has rot and settling (foundation) issues. Given his experience in structural work as a building contractor, he felt a good repair option would be to jack the whole structure up six inches to a foot and brace the top structure with posts and remove the floor structure. Then pour a concrete floor that can be stamped to resemble flag stones or some other aesthetically pleasing pattern. Then lower the structure back onto the concrete pad and bolt the posts to the slab. He felt that this would be a good permanent fix for the stability of the structure. Herb located a contractor that was interested in pouring and stamping the slab and Herb was willing to help with the jacking of the bandstand. The two contractors were Vermont Hardscape and Carol Concrete Construction.

Different options were discussed with the group including Brads idea of cutting the floor in half and repairing the problem side. Brad agreed to reach out to some local contractors to discuss the repair. Everyone agreed that contractors should be contacted and quotes obtained for the repairs. Robb agreed to contact Herb and the contractors that he found. Gary and Brad both agreed to oversee the project once the work was lined up. Everyone agreed that a long term repair is preferable. The repair would take place at the earliest time possible which ideally would be in this Fall. Currently everyone felt that the bandstand floor, should be able to withstand this summers slate of concerts.

JJ asked the Bandstand Committee to contact the food vendors so property use forms can be filled out. Eva contacted the Orford Historical Society, the only group that has not filled out the form as of yet.

JJ approved the Lions Club and the Masons request to serve food at the Bandstand Concerts.

Robb reported that he and Lawrence installed the Dock at Indian Pond Beach and repaired the step to the dock. Robb, Harry Osmer, Andy Schwaegler and Lawrence Hibbard will be putting the floats in this week and Robb, Sara and Cora Day will be placing the floats as well.

JJ reported that Joanne Parker and Kate Lester will be the Indian Pond Beach Monitors this summer. Lawrence and Robb plan to take down a hazard tree at Indian Pond Beach as soon as they can.

The July meeting will be at Upper Baker Pond. Currently it is believed that Either Camp Merriwood or Moosilauke are maintaining the Upper Baker Pond boat access. JJ and Robb agreed to look over the pond access and determine if any work is needed for maintenance.

Lawrence, Robb and JJ will put bark mulch around the trees along the Mall Walk sometime after July 5th. Lawrence and Bill Wilson will be removing a problem tree at the Community Field.

Cara Dyke will be starting her Market Days on the Town Common on July 15th.

JJ and Robb will meet with the Orford Selectboard on the 28th to discuss the Community Field and the Bandstand.

Lawrence, who has the contract for mowing the Towns properties this year, is concerned about the condition of the Community Field. He feels that the school is leaving trash on the field which makes it difficult to mow. There has also been various pieces of equipment that has been left out also making it difficult to perform his duties. Robb and JJ suggested that the Selectboard should be the ones to contact the school to remedy these issues. Robb has already sent a list of suggested guidelines to Barrett Williams (school superintendent) and Jamie Bourne (School Athletic Director and Head of Operations). JJ bought new locks for all of the Community Field buildings, gates and water hydrants. Enough keys were given to Jamie to provide access for staff and coaches only. No copies will be made. There have been issues in the past of water hydrants left unlocked and buildings accessed by unauthorized individuals. JJ also suggested that we tighten down the chains on the dumpster to eliminate unauthorized dumping. Lawrence felt that the dumpster is full and needs to be emptied. JJ will contact Sandra. It was also felt that the school can use their own dumpsters for school events in the future.

Lawrence was also concerned about the Playground being plowed during the winter, there have been piles of rocks left that make it difficult to mow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41.