

Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
August 16, 2023
Orford Town Common

Present: JJ Hebb, Robb Day, Kevin Follensbee

Also Present: Lawrence Hibbard

JJ opened the meeting at 5:30. JJ motioned to accept the July minutes as read, Robb seconded and all were in favor.

No new property use forms this month. There may be a substitution on a prior property use form for use of the baseball field.

Chip Stevens from Diamond Turf will be fertilizing and aerating the Community Field this month and possibly treating the skinned areas of the ball fields with herbicide. Kevin added that Biospray will be treating the Mall Walk with herbicide soon.

There was a short discussion on property use forms. Kevin felt that there should be some language on all application forms that the parties be made aware that they will be responsible for all damage incurred on the site during their use.

JJ brought up that Rivendell preseason soccer is starting on the 17th. She felt that the Parks and Playgrounds Committee should meet with Barrett Williams to discuss maintenance and communication issues that the Committee has been dealing with regarding the Community Field. Lawrence has cleaned up some trash and equipment this year left over from baseball season. The Committee discussed creating a checklist for the Parks and Playgrounds Committee to use to help monitor maintenance and care of the field. JJ felt that we should have a checklist for each sport starting with soccer. These filled out checklists can be forwarded to Jamie Bourn and Barrett Williams. Kevin felt that Lawrence could also fill out a second checklist to bring to light any issues that he sees while maintaining the fields. Along with the lease every year, there should also be a list of maintenance expectations included with the lease that the School can have on hand.

The Bandstand was closed down due to extensive rot discovered in the support posts. Lawrence and Robb met with Stan Graton to discuss repairs to the bandstand when this was brought to light. Robb felt that at that time that the bandstand should be closed until further notice. JJ and the Selectboard were notified. Kevin and the rest of the Selectboard all agreed with the decision.

JJ will contact Connecticut Valley Ag to set up a lime treatment for the Common this fall.

Lawrence would like to meet at the playground next month and work on clearing some brush. He also felt that there were some humps and bumps in the mowed area that were due to sand and gravel being pushed up by snow plows that could be smoothed out. He also suggested that the Committee put another layer of preservative on the soccer kick wall on the Community Field.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28

Minutes taken by Robb Day.