

Orford Parks and Playgrounds

Minutes of the Meeting

August 19th 2024

Orford Community Field

7:00 pm

Present: JJ Hebb, Lawrence Hibbard, Robb Day and Larry Taylor

JJ Motioned to accept the July Minutes as read, all were in favor.

The Orford Historical Society is asking to have a square dance demonstration on the Common on September 22nd, from 1-5. With no objections, JJ approved the property usage request.

Lawrence noticed a large area on the Community Field that was getting damaged from soccer practices on the practice field. JJ agreed to bring this up the RISD superintendent Jennifer Botzjoorns. The Committee also examined the storage building and the “boys” side storage was disorganized and one was unable to gain entry. This area tends to be wet in the winter and spring due to topography and Lawrence was concerned with the storage of electronics and the pitching machine in the area that tends to flood. JJ agreed to bring this up to Jennifer as well.

JJ met with Superintendent Botzjoorns regarding our issues regarding proper maintenance and upkeep of the Community Field over the last few years. According to JJ, Jennifer seemed very receptive to our concerns and wished to bring in the new Dean of Students, Joy Clancy, to act as our contact. It was agreed that a document would be worked up list our expectations for the maintenance and upkeep of the property. JJ also mentioned that the OP&P would like to remove the dumpster on a trial basis at the Community Field. Jennifer felt that would be fine as RISD has their own dumpsters. JJ will contact Sandra Marsh to have it removed. Lawrence did express some concerns regarding the removal and felt that trash will build up at that location but agreed that we should give it a try.

Swimming lessons were busy this year. The only incident was a rude patron from out of the area that wished to use the dock area even after Kate Lester informed her that that area was off limits during swim lessons. Robb felt that maybe we can have a sign made up informing beach users of this policy that Kate Lester can put up when lessons are in session. All agreed this was a good idea and JJ will have one made up for next year. Harry Osmer, Orford Beach Monitor, did have some issues with Piermont Residents that did not have beach passes on them. It was determined that Beach Passes were only issued by Orford and not Piermont. Larry felt that this is a Select board issue and the OSB should contact the PSB. JJ felt that at budget time the OP&P should increase the line item for the beach monitor hourly rate as Harry was working out quite well, but with a higher hourly rate, the amount of coverage is limited due to budgeting.

Robb will contact Andy Schwaegler to help with the removal of the docks and floats the week after Labor Day.

It was agreed that since the Port-o-potty that the Town ordered for Lower Baker Beach had not arrived yet, it made no sense to have one now as the season is almost over. It will be revisited next year.

The Upper Baker Pond boat access road has been washing out after these last few storms. Robb asked if the Orford road crew could repair the area, Larry felt they could.

Lawrence asked about the Mall Walk annual herbicide treatment and if it made sense to put it off until next year. JJ informed the Committee that the application has been scheduled and that the work will be performed in the next week or so. Robb suggested that we allow the treatment to take place as the perennial weeds that have grown this year will pick up where they took off in the spring without treatment.

Lawrence asked about installing a speed bump at the entrance of the Community Field parking lot. He has encountered rubber units that were very effective. Robb asked about just installing a water bar to slow folks down. No action was taken at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16. Minutes taken by Robb Day