

Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

October 16, 2024

Orford Town Offices

7:00

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

September minutes were approved, all in favor.

No Property Use Requests/Forms at this time.

The Committee had a work session on 10/6 and JJ, Lawrence and Robb painted the picnic tables on the Common. Robb repaired the tables with new boards to replace rotten ones and repaired and painted the table at Indian Pond. He will also put one more coat of paint on the tables before the end of the season.

2025 Budget

The Committee recommends that the Beach Monitor position is increased to \$4000 for the 2025 season (up \$1000 from 2024) to cover the Monitor for 15 hours a week for 14 weeks Memorial Day until Labor Day.

The Committee also recommended that the swim instructor aids base pay be increased to \$10 per hour and the most experienced aids that that been with the program the longest get and increase to \$13 per hour. This means that the swim aides line increases from \$2500 to \$2750 for the 2025 season. The swim program Miscellaneous line will be brought down to \$200 from \$300. These increases are to bring the pay of the aides and Monitor up to a level that is more acceptable in

our current labor markets. The use of Indian Pond beach has increased exponentially over the last few years and the Monitor position is critical to the property. The swim program is one of the last programs around our local area and we are getting more tuition students every year. We don't want to lose the aides we have due to lower than average pay.

The improvements line item will be level funded as well as the Rivendell Trails allotment. The Herbicide treatment will be brought down to \$600 from \$750 and the funding for the Garden Club plantings will go down to \$600 from \$750.

Community Field

JJ discussed the proposed dugout replacement for the baseball field. Lawrence felt that the proposed new dugouts are fine for the little league field at the fire station but too small for the high school teams. It was suggested that the athletic director from Rivendell investigate this issue by bringing the team over to the dugouts at the fire station. JJ told Jamie (Rivendell Athletic Director) that there may be some money in our budget to help with the construction but that he will need to spearhead this project.

Robb had a visit from Terry Martin from the Rivendell Schoolboard. Terry expressed concern in the amount of money the Town is asking of the school in the annual lease of the Community Field. Robb informed him that the dollar figure was set by the Orford Select board and that the OPP Committee has been making improvements over the last few years to the Baseball, Softball and Soccer fields that was requiring more financial investment. JJ has discussed this with the new superintendent

and she felt that the school may be able to pay a set fee every year and make up the difference if there are any additional costs at the end of the year. It was agreed that a discussion with the Select board was needed going forward with the Field lease. Robb suggested that we talk to Chip from Diamond Turf to get an idea on the costs of the field maintenance next year to get a better idea of what is needed to calculate into the lease.

Lawrence and Robb replaced some fraying flags along Route 10 on the telephone poles. Lawrence suggested ordering higher quality flags and requested that Esther order 30 new flags for next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22

Minutes taken by Robb Day