

Orford Parks and Playgrounds Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

January 15, 2025

Orford Town Offices

7:00

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

November minutes were approved, all in favor.

Property Use Requests

Request for April 20th from 5 am-7am. Orford Congregational Church requests to use the Playground Pavilion, Boat Launch Road and some of the Boat Launch for a Church/Indigenous Peoples march/walk. The OP&P can issue an approval for the use of the Pavilion but the Road and the Boat Launch are public spaces that are unmanaged by the OP&P Committee. All felt that this should be approved, JJ will put on the approval that the gravel road and playground parking lot may be muddy at that time of year and to just be aware.

Request for June 7th from 9 am to 5 pm for the Town Common in front of the Bandstand by an Orford Resident for a graduation party. All felt that this should be approved with the understanding of Town rules and regs such as no alcohol and no parking on the Common.

JJ has been talking to Cara Dyke regarding the Open-Air Markets that have been held on the Common in years past. Cara may decide to have all activity out near Route 10. This change may be better as far as the OP&P Committee is concerned and will reduce traffic on the Common.

Swim Program

Kate Lester has issued a letter to the OP&P regarding the 2024 swim program. There were 66 students from Orford and Piermont (tuition free) and many tuition students from surrounding Towns (Number?). Kate had some difficulty with limited staffing this summer with swim aides. She also felt that the current pay rate should be increased. JJ will inform Kate of our approved increase in swim aide wages for 2025.

JJ suggested that all student registrations should go through the Town of Orford C/O the OP&P for 2025. Lawrence asked if the Orford insurance covers the swim program. Larry will look into it. There was a short discussion on possible scholarships for needy students but since all of the Orford and Piermont students receive instruction free of charge, it was agreed that it was not up to us to provide scholarships for tuition students. It was also agreed that it would be worthwhile to discuss the 2025 season with Kate at a future meeting.

Beach Monitor

It was agreed that the OP&P would invite our current beach monitor, Harry Osmer, to an upcoming meeting so a discussion can be had regarding problems encountered during the 2024 season. There has not been a monitor for a few years and this season has been challenging for Harry to enforce rules with beach patrons and he has some changes that he feels should be made to make use of the beach more amenable for all.

Town Report

JJ wrote up her report to be published in the annual Town report. All approved of her report.

Bandstand

There is no new news on the repair of the Bandstand. The current contractor that has expressed interest in the repairs is not returning requests for information from JJ. The Bandstand Committee has \$25K in donations at this time to put towards the repairs. Robb suggested that if the Contractor is not returning calls or e-mails, maybe the project should be put out to bid and the contractor can be made aware so they can put in a bid if they desire. Larry suggested that if we put it out to bid, it should be listed that the Town has the right to refuse any and all bids if it sees fit.

New Business

Lawrence suggested that we buy some benches for placement on the Town Common. He also thought that we could offer a sponsorship plaque program to offset the costs of the benches. All felt that this would be a good idea and that we could extend the program to the Community Field as well where there are already benches. There is a Select board meeting on January 22nd at 6:00 to discuss the expenses to the Community Field. JJ will attend and asked that other members attend as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23

Minutes taken by Robb Day

