

**Orford Parks and Playground Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Orford Town Offices**  
**7:00**

**Present:** JJ Hebb (Chair), Lawrence Hibbard, Larry Taylor and Robb Day

JJ opened the meeting at 7:00. JJ motioned to accept the February Minutes as read, Lawrence seconded and all were in favor.

**Property Use Forms**

-Orford Open Air Market -Town Common- Saturdays, June 14<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, approved.

-Rivendell Rec Little League Softball-April until June. Rivendell Rec will work around Rivendell School Team events-Approved.

-Rivers Edge Soccer-Community Soccer Field-Summer. Rivers Edge agreed to work around any Rivendell events – approved.

-Orford Bandstand Committee-Orford Town Common- Every other week from June until August? Trash barrels are to be picked up after every event, no parking on the Common, No consumption of alcohol.

A new request this year for a 20 x 20 foot tent to be used in place of the Bandstand while the stand is unavailable for use. The Bandstand Committee requests that the tent be left up throughout the season. The tent must be insured by the owner of the tent for liability reasons. The Bandstand Committee will take care of trimming around the tent through the season. They will also reseed or repair any damage to the grass in the area around the tent. – approved.

-Orford /Fairlee Lions Club- Orford Town Common during bandstand events for food sales, approved.

JJ discussed the bandstand summer concert series with Gary Dimick. The Playground Pavillion on the Boat Launch Road could be a possible location for small concerts but larger ones, parking will be an issue. Larry suggested that the Rivendell Academy field adjacent to the main parking area would also be a good location. At this time there are no bids for the repair of the Bandstand, just a few phone calls from possibly interested parties.

JJ brought up the Community Field / Rivendell Lease. She would like to drop the annual lease amount by a few thousand after Terry Martins visit to the February meeting. She felt that if the maintenance costs of the field are higher than the lease in any given year, the difference could be billed to the school. Robb thought it was a good idea, but that the average annual maintenance at this time is in line with the current annual lease amount. Larry though that the lease amount at the current level does appear high but is fair when considering the costs. Robb suggested that since Lawrence does not plan on renewing his mowing contract with the Town next year that we approach the school to see if they would like to take over the mowing. If that is an option, we can reduce the lease.

The bookkeeping for the 2025 swim program will need to be more accurate. JJ will go over procedure with Kate Lester and the Google forms will be shared. The two week program will be from 7/28 to 8/8. Orford Parks and Playgrounds would like to charge Orford and Piermont attendees \$10 each to help with the rising costs of the instructors and aides.

The Beach Monitor position will need some assistance this year. Beach useage by Piermont residents has been a challenge for our beach monitor due to Piermonts refusal to issue beach passes to help identify residents. JJ felt that the Orford Selectboard could contact Piermont and see if this can be rectified. Robb also suggested that Orford can issue all passes if Piermont is unwilling. Robb will also work on a set of guidelines for the beach passes to be handed out with each pass this year. Hopefully this can make our Beach Monitors job easier as many of his challenges in 2024 were due to pass issues;

Schedule of upcoming meetings are as follows:

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| April-----  | Playground                   |
| May-----    | Indian Pond                  |
| June-----   | Town Common                  |
| July-----   | Upper Baker Pond Boat Launch |
| August----- | Community Field              |
|             | New Business                 |

JJ asked about possible purchases of benches for the Common. Lawrence though that at the 2026 Town Meeting we can have a table and plan on offering a Bench Adoption Program where folks can fund our benches while getting the opportunity to choose a color and/or engraving for the bench. JJ looked up a number of benches and it was agreed that we can work on this over the season and have a plan ready for Town Meeting. Lawrence thought a couple of new picnic tables would also be welcome for this season, Robb agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Minutes taken by Robb Day