

Orford Parks and Playground Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
August 19, 2026
Orford Community Field
5:00

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

Also Present: Terry Martin

JJ opened the meeting at 5:00. She motioned to accept the May Minutes as read, Lawrence seconded and all were in favor.

The group looked at the Orford Community Field sign and determined that it needed replacement this year. JJ showed the Committee the suggested designs from Julie Donnelly. The group decided on a design and JJ will ask for an updated quote from Julie using 3/4" composite signboard. Parks and Playgrounds will install the sign when its ready.

Soccer season started and Tom Marshall (Rivendell Athletic Director) asked about the trash can that was left on the field. JJ informed him that it was not the Committee's as we do not put out cans and if he had any questions or issues he could come to the meeting to discuss.

Diamond Turf treated the fields for grubs and weeds.

There was no property use forms at this time.

Haley Gray approached JJ in regards to a 50/50 and merchandise raffle for the Open-Air Markets with proceeds assigned to Neighbors Unite. She was informed that she would need to fill out some paperwork and to see Armand (Select board Administrative Assistant).

The Committee will need to put a coat of sealer on the soccer kickboard. JJ will pick up 2 gallons of sealer (Lawrence said the kickboard is 384 sq. ft. for future reference). Terry, speaking as a representative of the Rivendell Schoolboard, said that there will not be a baseball team for this year and possibly many years to come due to declining enrollment and he felt that no work needed to be done on the field. JJ informed Chip (Diamond Turf) of this but Parks and Playgrounds wanted him to perform basic annual maintenance so as to not loose all of the work that had been accomplished to bring the field back from disrepair. Lawrence wondered if we needed to pull the tarps over home plate and the pitcher's mound. JJ will ask Chip for his thoughts. Robb informed Terry that the donated dugout kits in the parking area of the Academy were ordered by the last AD and it was determined that they were probably too small for a high school team. With no teams on the horizon, it makes sense to donate the kits to another

school or organization like a conservation commission. Terry will ask around to see if anyone could use them.

Kate Lester informed JJ of a goose problem at the Indian Pond Beach. JJ called Fish and Game but they had no practical suggestions. Someone had been cutting the vegetation along the shoreline in front of the beach and it was suggested that this open area may be inviting for the geese. As its not advised and may violate the shoreland protection act, Robb will ask Armand to put something out on the Orford listserv to discourage people from cutting the brush.

Lawrence has noticed a number of dead and dying ash trees on the Common that will need to be removed. Larry suggested that we inform the Town Tree Warden, Bill Wilson, and if acceptable, Lawrence could cut them and the Committee could help to clean up. Robb asked if anyone knew of someone who wanted the firewood. Larry and Lawrence suggested putting the logs in the Town Pit for processing if anyone is interested.

JJ asked about the annual herbicide treatment for the Mall Walk, Robb felt it was getting too late in the season, all agreed and we should schedule earlier next year. Fertilizing of the Town Common was also discussed. Robb suggested that it was too late in the summer for that as well and it was agreed we would move that application off until the spring.

The September meeting will be at the Baker Ponds, starting at Upper Baker. The floats and docks will be pulled after Labor Day and Robb agreed to contact Andy Schwaegler for help.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58.

Minutes taken by Robb Day