

Rec Park Meeting

MINUTES

January 3, 2023

5:00 PM Town Office

- I. OPEN MEETING - The January 3, 2023, Rec Park committee meeting was opened by Chairman Vernon Crawford at 4:58 PM. Those present: Vernon Crawford, Diana Rancourt, Paul Lyons, and Zachary Brown.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were distributed at and prior to. All committee members reviewed the minutes. Vernon called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. A motion was made by Diana and seconded by Paul to approve the November 16, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously in the affirmative.
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda - No additions nor deletions were made to the agenda.
- IV. Survey Results – Zach reported that he received 30 surveys, with participants from almost Town in the area. The most being from Stewartstown, where the school did a great job getting the surveys out. He wanted to point out that 23 out of the 30 participants favored the splash pad. Some areas individuals marked as hindrances to their use of the park include access to porta-potties/real bathrooms, bullying, and access and activities during the winter months. In addition to many participants wanting a splash pad, they also asked for a skating rink and a skate park. The committee discussed both options in length and believed that both were viable options. The Rec Park will try to get a skating rink in either Fletcher Park or the Rec Park soon.
- V. Fundraisers - The committee discussed that the Rec Park needs to host a few fundraisers for the coming year. Ideas tossed around were the Ice Out Contest, the annual car wash and bake sale, a pie baking contest, and a pie auction. The Ice Out Contest can be done and would need to begin soon. Diana stated that the date for the car wash might need to be moved so that the committee is distinct from another organization. Vern brought up that during the Bicentennial celebration for Canaan, someone held a pie-baking contest, and it was pretty well attended. Diana, Zach, and Paul brought up the idea of the pie auction, which was an extremely successful fundraiser for the senior class at Canaan. Vern urged the committee to keep thinking.
- VI. Newsletter Advertisements – Zach reported that letters were mailed to both prospective and past advertisers in the Newsletter. He hoped the committee might receive some more donations, whether one-time donations or the purchase of ads in the Canaan Carrier. Diana and the committee agreed it is worth a try.
- VII. Splash Pad – Preliminary work for the splash pad is coming along nicely. Diana has been in contact with Kyle Daley, a Tillotson North Country Foundation member. She reported that the prospects of receiving grant funding from this foundation are high. Kyle, a member, said he favors adding the splash pad and thinks it would be a great addition to the area. Diana reported that the committee would need to write a letter requesting the funds by February 10,

2023. She reported that the addition of security cameras, proof that we have other outside donors, and the support of the Town, would go a long way in securing the funding. Vern also reported that he had been in contact with Jim Wells and that Jim was making a quote for the project. Right now, the committee decided that the best place for the Splash pad would be near the hill from the library, near the playground. Jim told Vern that this area would be flat enough for the concrete pad and allow accessible water and electricity access. The committee discussed several different factors and will be reaching out to the Library Trustees, Selectboard, and FD1 Prudential Committee.
- VIII. Selectboard and FD#1 Meetings – To continue from the last meeting, the committee has yet to meet with the boards but did receive preliminary numbers from April. Based on her calculations, the water usage cost would be about \$70 per quarter.
- IX. Bylaws – Informational Only
- X. Security Cameras/Incidents in the Park – Zach and Diana reported that Sharon Ellingwood was concerned with what was happening at the Rec Park. She has witnessed several cars going down the Rec Park for extended periods and not using the park. The committee discussed placing surveillance cameras throughout the park.
- XI. Donation Letters – The committee discussed sending out donation letters to Alumni and other community members to raise money for the Splash Pad. No action was taken.
- XII. Town Report - The write-up for the town report was distributed. Zach mentioned that it had to be finalized by January 27, 2023, as the deadline for the Town Report is January 30, 2023. The committee will review it and get back to him.
- XIII. 2023 Budget – The committee finalized the budget. On a motion made by Paul to approve the 2023 budget and seconded by Diana, the 2023 budget was passed unanimously in the affirmative.
- a. Mowing – The meadow lot expenditures will increase by \$100 to \$700 annually.
 - b. Porta-Potties – Brian Riff emailed Zach, telling him he is happy with his services' \$1,200 annual contract. This will be paid out at the beginning of every season.
- XIV. SIGN WARRANT -
- a. Warrant 25-22 for \$38.46 was signed and executed by the Rec Park committee.
- XV. Other Business –
- a. VT Fencing – Vern called the company that had resurfaced the basketball and tennis courts and decided that the courts were in the best condition they could be in. Outdoor courts will always have some wear and tear on them. The committee agreed.
- XVI. ADJOURN MEETING – A motion was made by Diana and seconded by Paul to adjourn the January 30, 2023, Rec Park Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Vernon Crawford adjourned the meeting at 5:54 PM.