

**VGBC Project Committee - 3 Parks**  
Approved Minutes from December 28, 2023 Meeting

**Next meetings**

Tuesday Jan 9

Tues Jan 23

Tues Jan 30

**Members Attended:** Denise Barnard, Kendra Ziskie, Fran Thomas, Tess Storrs, Megan Andrews, Jeanne Agner

**Members Absent:** Mary Lefebvre

**Guests in person:** Jessie Heizer, Janet Morris, Carolyn Marshall

**Attending Virtually:** Melissa Wolaver, Martha Nye, Velma Plouffe, Rachel's ipad

**Public comment:** Jessie Heizer - Shared her concerns about flooding, a possible path in Volunteer's Green and public input into the plans.

Melissa Wolaver- shared how the Andrew's Community Forest gathered community input for their plan and suggested a similar format once we have a proposal developed. Melissa also wondered if we'd considered a path at Brown's Court and if we have information regarding noise from pickle ball games.

Committee response- We are a newly formed committee of volunteers that have been tasked by the Select Board to have suggestions for improvements for all three of the parks using ARPA money. We have a very tight time frame to research and develop a proposal to present to the public and to the Select Board by the end of March. We have been working with information from the ARPA survey, have been meeting with numerous constituents and experts to get input on repairing infrastructure to return the 3 parks to something the town can be proud of. We are gathering information but have not formulated any definite proposals for public review at this time. Any suggestions for Volunteer's Green will have to be reviewed by Tyler Machia, the town flood plain manager, before it can be included in a proposal. All of our meetings are public and minutes are available.

**Minutes from Dec 12, 2023 meeting** - Approved with correction of names

## Reports from committee members:

### Browns Court

John Linn developed a draft site plan for Brown's Court that was shared at the last Select Board meeting. The plan includes the softball field, 4 pickleball courts, a bocce court and parking for 20 cars. However, a boundary survey is needed before proceeding.

The Select Board approved the hiring of Chris Haggerty, L.S. from Button and Associates, to do a **boundary survey** of Brown's Court. He plans to complete that early January. Denise shared a boundary survey done by Lamoureux & Dickinson in 2006 which was a property survey for McCarthys, owners whose property abuts Brown's Court.

The **proposed parking** is to improve a once existing lot vs installing a new lot. Will need 3 quotes. The town highway department may be able to do this, however this committee should not assume that town funds can be used. Get quotes for doing this work.

Fran is looking into the cost of a row of cedar trees to define the property and buffer some park noise. That will be included in the overall **landscape plan** for this park.

Update on **bocce courts**. Tess has been meeting with a variety of people to learn more about bocce, including a Richmond resident, Lewis White, who is very active in the Burlington bocce scene. There are several volunteers who would be willing to install a bocce court to specifications. We need a price quote for the materials, including the speciality stone.

Tess getting quotes for **multi use courts** that can be used for both tennis and pickleball. One tennis court can accommodate 4 pickleball courts. If courts are shared, that will involve 2 different sets of nets that must be changed for each sport. There would also need to be a small locked shed for storage of the nets. Tess is also exploring options of one tennis court plus 2 pickleball courts and other variations. Tess will list pros and cons of each within our proposal. The challenge is getting quotes that include excavation and laying of the asphalt.

**Amenities** - Jeanne will get prices for benches, tables, trash cans and a bike rack. Denise will get a price for installation of a water fountain.

**Softball field** - Will look at orientation of the field per John Linn's drawing after the boundary survey. Discussion of getting some portable bleachers. Get some prices and decide at the next meeting if that is something we want to put in this plan. Would need to consider storage and who is responsible for take down, etc.

Our next meeting, January 9th, will have a focus on the park at Brown's Court. We will discuss how to present our research to the public for input as well as developing our proposal to present to the Select Board as part of our suggested overall 3 parks improvement plan.

## **Volunteers Green**

**Playground** - quotes and designs have been submitted from three different companies. Jeanne will set up a meeting with some of our members and members of the recreation committee to evaluate the initial proposals and to have designs reviewed by the floodplain administrator. We will devote most of our Jan 23 meeting to review designs and quotes from three playground companies. We are hoping this meeting can be a joint meeting with the recreation committee. At that meeting we will develop a plan for presenting to the community for feedback. We will also discuss how to present this info to the Select Board.

**Benches and tables** - Jeanne reported on the state of the benches and tables at Volunteers Green, including those near the bandshell, along the river view and in the playground. She will develop a plan and get quotes for repairing and replacing as needed.

**Bandstand area** Vegetation barrier and landscaping - Fran is meeting with Jon Kart to talk about what type of native plants could be used to provide a border while not growing so tall as to block the river view

**Walking path**- Fran is meeting with members of the trails committee to talk about a possible path.

**Bathrooms** - The stalls are not accessible and the door is too heavy for most to open. Fran is looking into a type of paint that is more resistant to water damage and mold as well as graffiti. Tyler will need to review any plan for improvements

**Baseball fields** - Jeanne and Fran met with Josh. He stated that FEMA will cover the cost of replacing the clay (that is the most expensive component) that was lost in the

July flooding. Little League has been maintaining the fields. Perhaps the recreation committee and Little League define town and league responsibilities for the future. Getting estimates for replacing and repairing some of the fencing, backstops etc. Will need to determine if any backstop poles will need to be replaced. Removable bleachers - getting some estimates. Someone will need to be in charge of being sure that benches are removed at the end of season and stored properly. Town or Little League- again, perhaps the recreation committee can sort this out.

**Soccer** nets - did not get removed at end of season and are now washed into the woods. Perhaps the recreation committee could add that responsibility - even if it's just calling soccer leagues to remind them it's time to pull in the nets. And/or to call folks if/when the water is rising and get them moved to higher ground.

**Band Stand** gathering quotes and then will determine how to get bids, specs

### **Round Church Green**

No new updates other than benches discussion above.

### **Overall Project**

The Select Board suggested having a clerk of the works to actually run the project. A clerk of the works would develop a schedule, maintain the project documents, see that work is scheduled in a timely manner, see that work is completed to specs etc. The Select Board will need to determine if there is a town employee who could be assigned to manage the overall project or if they need to hire someone.