

**Volunteers Green, Browns Court, Round Church Green  
3 Parks Improvement Committee (ARPA Funds)**

**Minutes from meeting on January 23, 2024 Approved**

**Members Attending:** Kendra Ziskie, Fran Thomas, Tess Storrs, Megan Andrews, Jeanne Agner

**Members Absent:** Denise Barnard, Mary Lefebvre

**Recreation committee members:** Sheri Lyn, Katie Kreider, Mark Fausel

**Guests in person:** Jessie Heizer, Donna Saks, Jim Oliver, Jay Furr

**Attending Virtually:** Mary Claire Carrol, Jon Kart, Lisa , John Linn, Janet Mo

**Minutes Approved** from last meeting on Tuesday Jan 9

**Next scheduled meetings**

Tuesday Jan 30

Tuesday February 13

**Public comment:** Jessie H. asked where to find the video of meetings. Jay Furr will be sure that they are posted on the MMCTV site and will send us the link.

**AGENDA 1/23/24**

Followup of Selectboard meeting on Tuesday 1/16/24. Frustration was expressed about decisions made with regards to Brown's court at the end of the last selectboard meeting. Our committee is committed to remaining positive and moving ahead with providing recommendations for improvements to all three parks. We will continue to finalize quotes and suggestions for Brown's Court to present to the Select Board despite distractions.

**Recreation committee** members are attending tonight's meeting to be included in the discussion of the possible roles that committee might have with regards to maintenance and follow through with some of our proposals.

**Browns Court**

Chris Haggerty Survey – Should be ready by the end of the week. This survey is to determine boundary lines, property lines etc. We need this information and need to know about setbacks, ravines, wetlands, easements, etc. to determine the area that can be used for proposed improvements for recreation. With that information, John Linn will refine the sketch of the park with the softball field, courts, parking and amenities

included.

Jeanne had more information **sheds**. She shared her correspondence with Josh Arneson to learn what is stored in the shed for softball. He thinks the small shed currently on the site is probably owned by the softball league. It is filled with supplies for softball and maintenance of the field. Jeanne suggests a small shed 6x6 or 8x8 close to the pickleball/multi use and bocce courts for storage of materials needed for court maintenance (brooms, shovels, squeegees, sponges, etc) and material needed for minor repairs to the surface, lines, etc.. This shed should be in close proximity to the courts. A padlock with a combination code could be shared with key users of the courts if needed. We discussed with Sheri from the rec committee how that might be managed.

Tess presented detailed sketches and estimates for **pickleball courts** and **multi use courts** for pickleball/ tennis as well as a court for pickleball/tennis/basketball. There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of each, how a shared court would be managed and who would determine scheduling. Our presentation will be sure to have some way to gather feedback from the community as to preferences. Tess shared some recent statistics. Pickleball is at an increase of something like 171%, this was from 2018 to 2022. There's always been a rumor that Pickleball is what they call the old people's sport. The other part of the survey indicated that the largest growth was between 18 to 44 year olds. Tess also presented more information about **Bocce** courts. We discussed placement of a **cedar hedge** near the courts as a visual and sound barrier as a courtesy to the neighbors.

It was decided to include in our proposal prices for **2 benches** to be placed near the courts. Jeanne will get some more prices and options for those as well as a **bike rack**. The suggestion was made to have a locked connection for a **hose** on the proposed water fountain. Megan is looking into prices for some portable bleachers.

Our plan is to have a rough budget for our proposals for Brown's Court to be pulled together for our next meeting. We know that the funds are limited and we have all three parks to look at. We acknowledge there might be some items included in the overall proposal as suggestions for the future.

**Volunteers Green**

Summary- At our last meeting, Pete Gosslin presented a plan that could involve moving the playground up to the higher plateau. In that scenario, the bandshell would be removed and the playground would be built there. The crabapple trees and that overgrown area would be removed and a pavilion that would be built on that area closer to the road. The pavilion would replace the bandshell, have more covered space and include electricity and ADA bathrooms.

#### Items discussed

Chris Haggerty is conducting a survey of the bandshell area. He will determine elevations to see if it might be considered out of the floodway. We are waiting for this before we can proceed with playground plans and more. Depending on his findings, Tyler Machia, the town zoning administrator and flood plain manager, outlined in a memo three ways the town might proceed to build these structures. If we are able to obtain a permit to build, we discussed hiring John Linn to lay out a basic design.

We do have several estimates and are getting quotes for some extensive work needed to repair the bandshell, shore up the beams, straighten the lean, and repair the floor. It is also not ADA compliant. The roof would still only cover 50% of the floor.

We have quotes from 3 different playground manufactures. We discussed how we might plan to make a decision on a contractor quickly if we get a good ahead with building on the higher area. If the playground cannot be built on the plateau, the town may have to explore other locations for a new playground due to continual flood damage.

There was continued discussion about the pros and cons and construction concerns regarding a short flat, accessible walking path around the flat area of green. Mark Fausel suggested that he and possibly Virginia Clark could look into any zoning restrictions. Jon Kart and Mark F will also connect with the river engineer and the river ecologist to discuss the ongoing erosion of the river bank and what impact a path might have.

Kendra will be pulling together as much information as she can to pull together the information we have gathered regarding Brown's Court for the next meeting. We are reminded to get any additional information to her by this weekend.

Fran will work on a draft explaining our work to post on the Front Porch Forum. That will be discussed and worked on at the next meeting. She might send out a draft for review before the meeting. A reminder that with regards to Open Meeting guidelines, we can share this information with the group ahead of meetings, but we should not comment or give opinions via group emails.

Meeting was adjourned.