

## VGBC Project Committee- 3 Parks

Minutes from January 30, 2024: APPROVED on Feb 13, 2024

**Next Meeting:** February 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Center

**Members attended:** Denise Barnard, Kendra Ziskie, Fran Thomas, Tess Storrs, Megan Andrews

**Members Absent:** Jeanne Agner, Mary Lefebvre

**Guests in Person:** Jay Furr, Josh Arneson, Lane and Carolyn Marshall

**Attending Virtually:** Marha Nye, Velma Plouffe, Janet Morris, Sheri Wolcott, Mark Fausel, Michael, John Linn, Lisa Miller and Sheri Lynn

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments at the beginning of the meeting, but there were several public comments as we went through the agenda items and these were acknowledged and appreciated by the committee.

The minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved with Denise abstaining as she was absent from that meeting.

Mary Lefebvre expressed concern that she was not able to attend meetings regularly due to a new job position and she would understand if the committee found another person to take her place. The committee unanimously agreed that Mary's input, especially her advocacy for the disabled, is valuable to the committee and it is our wish that she remain on the committee.

**Updates on Survey: Brown's Court:** Chris Haggerty from Button and Associates, presented us with a map that shows the boundaries of Brown's Court Park and established that the town owns 3.13 acres, with 2.2 acres being workable. One topic of discussion was a triangular piece of land located near the entrance to the park. Inconclusive as to whether the Brown family actually owned it or whether it belonged to the Underwear Factory.

To see the map and to hear more details, [click on this link:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFgQJ7qo8AI&list=PLm9TgJr7n7xfcKxRghWWSdATHBzGQTgkK>

**The Brown's Court portion is roughly 5 minutes and 30 seconds into the video.**

**Volunteers Green:** Chris Haggerty informed us that a topographic survey was done that would capture the breaking slope and the floor heights of the bandstand and the corners of the bandstand edge to get some elevation figures. This is to determine whether the area surrounding the bandstand is in the flood zone or not. Chris thinks that we can elevate it using material from another part of the flood zone. Another option would be to move the playground to the bandstand area and acknowledge that we are making a bad situation better by moving the playground to a higher elevation. Chris agreed that when the documents were completed, he would send them to John Linn so that he could continue his work.

Denise thanked Jay Furr, Selectboard Chairman, for attending our meeting.

**Cost Discussion and Review:** We are in the preliminary stages of putting costs together for Brown' Court. Among the items that were discussed and estimates given were for a multipurpose court, or four pickleball courts or 1 tennis court, bocce courts, baseball/softball upkeep, as well as storage units, benches, water fountains, tree/branch removal, planting of some cedar trees. Jay pointed out that there is a tarp like covering that can be placed over tennis/pickleball/multi use courts. For the winter. Cost is about \$2000 but extends the time between the need to resurface. Discussion about water accessibility – a hose to water down bocce court as well as the softball field.

**Review and discussion of draft of Front Porch Forum post:** Fran presented us with hard copies of the post that will be on Front Porch Forum. Since the post appeared to be quite lengthy, we had a discussion on whether we should do shorter postings. In the end, we decided that Fran's post would give members of our community a clearer overall picture of what this committee is trying to accomplish. The post will end with a link to the town website where community members can see our names as well as email addresses.

**Other Public outreach plans discussion:** For members of our community who do not utilize Front Porch Forum, Fran will submit this posting to the Richmond Times Ink as a letter to the editor.

**Other items:** There was some discussion about and concerns about affordable housing in Richmond. This was brought up for discussion because affordable housing is on the agenda for town meeting. Some areas of concern were: Will tax increases cause people who have been living here for years/generations force them to relocate? For people who want to downsize, where would they find smaller, affordable homes in Richmond? There was discussion about housing on Jolina Court as well as changes in Vermont mandates pertaining to the number of units that can be built per acre, as well as accessory dwellings built on private land.

The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Possible agenda items were discussed: Another presentation by Chris Haggerty explaining the result of the Volunteers Green land survey, continuation of overall costing discussion. We also wanted to leave time to report back regarding the response from the Front Porch Forum post that the committee submitted.

The co-chairs thanked all for attending and the meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.