

Richmond Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes February 6th, 2024

Members Present: Sheri Lynn, Kate Kreider, Mark Fausel,

Members of the Public Present: Lisa Miller (Selectboard), Jack Lazarowski (Senior Center), Jeanne Agner (3 Parks Committee)

Meeting started at 7:05 PM

Public Comments/Non-agenda Items: Sheri mentioned that Duncan left a catalog from the Landshapes playground company that we can look at if we'd like to. Sheri stated that committee members whose terms are up have received notifications from Duncan. We will need to work on recruitment of new members for the committee in the coming months.

Snowshoe Events Planning/Logistics: Sheri is going to edit the promotional flyer that she created and the event form so that it states that the Rec committee is hosting/sponsoring the events for insurance/liability reasons. The Town of Richmond's insurance will cover the event at Volunteers Green. The material will also state that the Senior Center is supporting the programs. Sheri posed the question of whether or not we should also have participants who use the library's snow shoes sign a waiver. After brief discussion the decision was made to use a waiver. Lisa and Jack also supported this idea. Jack asked about insurance coverage for the events in Huntington in Bolton. Jack offered to check with the Smilie school regarding this and Sheri will check with Huntington.

Jack offered to pick up the snowshoes from the Richmond Free Library before the first event. Kate communicated with the library and the snowshoes will be on hold as of 2/19. Jack will call the library (Rebecca) to check in prior to picking up the snowshoes. At Volunteers Green, members of the Senior Center will help run the event. The meeting place will be at the bandshell and volunteers should arrive at 9:30AM. The people who will help run the event at Volunteers Green include: Kate (will bring waivers), Mark, Jack, and some members of the Senior Center. Jack/the Senior Center will provide cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee at the event. He will have large carafes for the hot chocolate and coffee. At the end of the event, Sheri will pick up the snowshoes and remaining refreshments and take them to the next event.

Sheri will run the Huntington event. Mark also stated that he can help with the Huntington event. She plans on leading a walk to identify trees in the Huntington Forest. Sheri will take the snowshoes and any remaining refreshments after the Huntington event and she will bring them to the Bolton event. Someone may need to get more cookies and coffee and hot chocolate mix as needed between events. Jack, members of the Senior Center, Sheri, and Kate will help with the Bolton event at the Smilie School. Jack stated that he is uncertain at this time what the activities will be at the Bolton event other than snowshoeing. He said that Smilie is planning on making an ice rink, but that is very weather dependent and may not be an option. In the afternoon Ethan Tapper is leading a snowshoe walk after the Bolton event.

Jack raised a concern about conditions, such as ice. Discussed this and we will assess conditions prior to the events and cancel if needed due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions. Sheri can notify participants who have signed up if we have to cancel, and one volunteer will also go to the event place at the scheduled time of the event to notify anyone who may show up that the event is canceled. Jack mentioned that it would be helpful to know before the events how many people are planning to attend. Sheri stated that a couple days before the event she will let us know how many people have signed up. Jack asked if we are assuming that every child attending the events is accompanied by an adult. Sheri replied yes, and stated that she will add wording to the promotional material that specifies that children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sheri asked for volunteers to post in the Front Porch Forums every week leading up to the events. Kate will do Richmond, Sheri will do Huntington, Jack will do Bolton. Sheri will edit the poster and will email Kate and Jack with the wording to use for the FPF posts. Sheri will post physical flyers in Huntington, Jack will post flyers in Bolton, and Duncan will post flyers in Richmond. Kate will check into having the flyer posted and possibly distributed at Richmond Elementary School. Jack will check into Smilie School, Sheri will check into the Brewster Pierce School.

7:41 PM: Discussion Regarding Zoning and the 3 Parks Plan for Volunteers Green: Mark reported that he offered to the 3 Parks Committee to reach out to the zoning administrator in an effort to better understand his interpretation of the flood zone regulations at Volunteers Green and learn more about what the stumbling blocks are regarding the possibility of putting structures at Volunteers Green. Mark stated that he talked with the zoning administrator, Tyler. Tyler has spent a lot of time fielding questions about the zoning and having conversations with various individuals. Tyler asked that individuals/groups need to have a specific goal and plan/design first, and then he is happy to have a discussion regarding a specific plan and whether or not it could be done. Mark expressed that he appreciates the efforts of Tyler and his involvement with various committees.

Jeanne gave an update regarding the recent work of the 3 Parks Committee related to Volunteers Green. She stated that Tyler met with Fran Thomas a couple times and outlined how we can look at different structures. Right now we (the 3 Parks Committee) are waiting for a survey of the plateau (bandshell area) and then we will know what we can ask for/suggest. Most of us (the 3 Parks Committee) feel that the playground should not be replaced in its current location due to the repeated flooding. The plan is to try to get it put on the plateau. Sheri agreed that the flooding in the current playground location is an issue and she loves the idea of putting it up on the plateau. The Rec Committee supports this idea.

Jeanne stated that during the next 3 Parks Committee meeting she is planning to have the committee vote on which playground rep to work with so that they can move ahead and have the rep create a playground design for the plateau area. Jeanne is going to recommend that the 3 Parks Committee vote to use Justin Mansfield from the Miracle company as the playground rep for several reasons, such as his proposal met all criteria asked and he is familiar with the

current structure. Once the 3 Parks Committee has the survey of the plateau and a playground design, then they can meet with Tyler to have him review the design and give feedback related to the flood zoning. Sheri expressed that this committee is in line with what the 3 Parks Committee is working on and we support the plan to put a playground on the plateau and replace the bandshell with a pavilion and bathrooms. Jeanne said that the cost to repair the band shell was more than expected. The structure does not fall under historic preservation, being 40 years old so the 3 Parks Committee are pricing out the cost of a new pavilion in place of the band shell.

Mark mentioned the concern that if we remove the current playground structure and don't put another structure in that location, then we will lose the option to ever have a structure there again. Would community members want another structure there or would they rather leave it as green space? Jeanne stated that the 3 Parks Committee is not planning on putting any structure in that area due to how low-lying it is and how easily it floods. Jeanne mentioned that the area of the current playground could be a good location for the farmer's Markets.

8:08 PM: Discussion Regarding Managing Recreational Facilities at Browns Court: The 3 parks committee wants to know what our capacity is to manage whatever recreational facilities and structures end up there. Management tasks may include regular maintenance, scheduling the use of courts, being a contact for questions or concerns, and regularly inspecting the facilities. Sheri suggested that the Senior Center may be willing to handle scheduling pickleball courts because they already have a system in place that they use for that. Sheri expressed that the Rec Committee does not have the time or amount of volunteers needed to handle this. We are a very small committee. Committee members agree that we do not have the capacity to manage recreational facilities at Browns Court. The Rec Committee would be willing to help with some seasonal and occasional tasks/maintenance, but daily or weekly responsibilities would be too much for this committee to take on. Sheri offered that the comment form on our website could be utilized as a tool for people to give feedback and express any concerns or issues with town recreation equipment/structures. Our committee can also help by reaching out to and coordinating with other organizations and groups, such as the Senior Center.

Mark stated that he feels it would be simpler if the courts are not multiuse and nets don't need to be frequently changed out for the different activities, such as pickleball to tennis. Jeanne stated that the logistics of using a multiuse court are a concern for the 3 Parks Committee and this is an issue that the committee is currently wrestling with. Sheri suggested putting some of the responsibility on community members and having signs at the park informing people of the rules, expected behavior, and information regarding how to take care of the equipment and how it should be left when they leave. Jeanne agrees that this is a good idea.

8:23 PM: Discussion Regarding a Shed at Browns Court: Jeanne stated that the 3 Parks Committee has discussed placing a shed at Browns Court for storing items and equipment for the proposed recreational facilities. Jeanne mentioned that the committee has discussed whether to have a code lock on the shed or leave it unlocked. Jeanne thought that if there is a code for the shed, perhaps the Rec Committee could be the contact person if people need the

code. Mark expressed concern regarding leaving the shed unlocked and he supports having a lock with a code so that groups who use the equipment frequently could be given the code. Mark also asked Jeanne if there has been any discussion about the possibility of putting in a bathroom at Browns Court. Jeanned replied that it has not been discussed, and at this point there would not be enough funds to add a bathroom facility. Sheri suggested that the code to the shed could be changed on a regular interval and the code could be posted online under the Recreation Committee community page on the town website. Mark suggested a system where you have to register your phone number and then you get a text with the code. Sheri made a comment that she hopes the 3 Parks Committee will keep accessibility and equity in mind when making decisions regarding what structures to put in at Browns Court.

8:40 PM: March 5th Agenda Items: Discuss any updates regarding the work of the 3 Parks Committee, discuss how the snowshoe events went, discuss recruiting new members, explore possible collaboration with other committees. Jeanne mentioned that the next 3 Parks Committee meeting is next Tuesday, 2/13, and hopefully they'll have the survey results of the plateau.

08:43 PM: Kate motions to adjourn, Sheri seconds, meeting unanimously adjourned.