

**Shandaken Recreation Board  
Draft Minutes  
September 16, 2013**

Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

The following were present:

- Big Indian Park Manager - Lisa Schnack (Via Phone)
- Glenbrook Park Manager – Sandra Stanley
- Smith Park – Carole Chanler
- Chair – Martie Gales

Also Present:            Jack Jordan. Town Board Liaison  
                                 Walter Crump  
                                 Alicia Schnack

Absent:                    Carol Urban, Parish Field Manager

Minutes

Sandra Stanley moved and Carole Chanler seconded that the minutes from the August meeting be accepted with correction of tonight’s meeting date. The vote was unanimous.

Communications, Conditions and Recommendations

Big Indian Park – Lisa noted via phone that she will investigate park equipment catalogs for repairing a broken swing. Lisa met with Mary Beth Mills from the Peekamoose who with her staff have donated time and paint for the playground equipment. She is planning a pizza luncheon with Mary Beth and Martie Gales to discuss possible upgrades to playground equipment.

Lisa contacted Nancy Holgate, scout master, concerning the availability of volunteers to help with the application of marine shellac to the totem pole. Nancy indicated that she was uncomfortable having youngsters on scaffolding applying the shellac. She will pursue other volunteers.

Smith Park – Carole Chanler reported that the benches and plaques noting the donations from the Fleischmanns/Pine Hill Rotary have been placed in the Park. Pictures were shared showing some of the work and the results. A dedication ceremony is being planned.

### Smith Park – (cont'd)

Carole is consulting with Josh Slater regarding resurfacing/sealing the basketball court. The new backboards and hoops have arrived and Rotarians are working on installing them.

The next major project for the park concerns the tennis courts. It needs to be determined if the funds raised for creating a skate board park would be released for improving the tennis courts. Additional estimates for the work also need to be acquired.

Glenbrook Park – Sandra noted that the sand from the children's sand box has still not been removed by the Highway Dept. We will send a reminder to the Town Supervisor.

Vandalism to the bathrooms has let up now that school is in session. A notice was posted on Facebook that continued damage would cause the bathrooms to be locked and open only when the park is rented.

Parish Field – Carol Urban was unable to attend the meeting but sent the message that placement of the chips under the Star Gazer equipment was waiting for interpretation of the latest ADA regulation concerning this material. Carol was urged to contact Gene Gormley to let him know where things stand on this matter.

Recreational Holdings – Martie Gailes reported receiving copies of e-mails regarding schedule changes for fall soccer programs on the Emerson Fields. All conflicts have been resolved to date.

Communications – Martie shared an e-mail from Rob Stanley explaining the difficulty in creating interest bearing accounts for Park Funds.

## Communications (cont'd)

Joyce Grant sent the following list of business donations for Summer Rec "T" shirts:

Phoenicia Diner  
Peekamoose  
Freestyle realty  
Catskill Seasons Inn  
Boiceville Wines\*  
Ruth Gale Realty  
Ulster Savings  
Phoenicia Deli  
Boiceville Mkt.  
Spotted Dog Emerson  
Stanley Plumbing  
Dave Smith Network Contracting  
Simpler Times Vinnie Bernstein

\*The Liquor store was offered their money back as it was decided it was not appropriate for them to be listed on the kids "T" shirts.

Many thanks to Lisa Schnack for all her efforts in soliciting businesses and to Rob Stanley for handling the order.

## Old Business

Summer Recreation – Rayla shared that it was a great summer. She expressed her thanks to Sandra Stanley for serving as medical officer. She deeply appreciated all the time Sandra spent with them. Also thanks to Lisa Schnack for providing lunch for youngsters in need. That was extraordinarily generous and helpful addition

The counselors worked out very well. Mike Holland and Nick Grant, particularly, developed into excellent counselors and leaders.

The camp has a zero tolerance for fighting and bullying. Four kids were suspending for one day because of fighting. Two of those kids persisted with unacceptable behavior and were not allowed to participate the last two weeks of camp.

The field trips to the Ulster County Fair and Zoom Flume were a success. She intends to poll the counselors about possibilities for next year.

The talent show was fabulous. Kids had an opportunity to rehearse their acts and did a good job while having a lot of fun.

## New Business

DEC Decision on 1200 Acre Big Indian Acquisition Classification – public comment is sought by the DEC. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17.

### Background:

- In June of 2012 the DEC held a public meeting to gather input concerning the classification of new lands acquired by the State.
- Representatives from the Parks and Rec. Board attended that meeting.
- The parcel has a relatively flat ridge top, an existing well-built road system, and adjoins the Belleayre Ski Center which is classified as Intensive Use.
- July 30, 2012, the Parks and Rec. Board passed the following resolution:

The Parks and Recreation Board of the Town of Shandaken Strongly urges that the entire acquisition be classified as “Intensive Use.” This conforms to the classification assigned the Belleayre Ski Center, and is appropriate because, in fact, the land is an extension of Belleayre Mountain. The 1200 acres will become part of the NYS Forest Preserve guaranteeing that this land will be well protected while the classification of “intensive use” allows the creation of hiking trails, mountain biking trails, snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

- The categories that the DEC can choose to classify lands are:
  - Wilderness – primeval character, a sense of remoteness and solitude
  - Wild Forest - existing road network, less sense of solitude
  - Intensive Use – allowing for a wide range of recreation and motorized activity

### The DEC Proposal:

1. 263 acres adjacent Belleayre Mountain Ski Center to be classified Intensive Use. Concurrently 149 acres of Ski Center land are to be reclassified as wilderness. Resulting in a net gain of 114 acres of Intensive Use land.
2. 542 acres will be classified as wild forest.\*
  - \*The DEC intends to amend the Park Master Plan to allow grooming of Cross County ski trails on Big Indian Ridge.

3. 510 acres will be added to Big Indian Wilderness.

#### Impact on Shandaken

- 5% increase in Intensive Use acreage - Now totaling 2,325 acres
- 10% increase in Wild Forest acreage - Now totaling 5,917 acres
- 2% increase in Wilderness acreage - Now totaling 34,010 acres
  
- Over 75% of the land in the town of Shandaken is already owned and restricted by New York City or the State of New York.
  
- The 1200 acres in question were privately owned and had the potential of being developed whether for recreational purposes or business or home ownership, generating more than the minimal revenue of “vacant land.”

#### DEC’s responsiveness to the concerns of Shandaken Parks and Rec.

- We sought 100% of the land being classified as Intensive Use
- The State recommends 12% of the land be classified as Intensive Use
  
- The State is recommending an amendment to allow mechanized grooming of cross country ski trails
- There is no mention of amenities such as:
  - Parking areas
  - Warming Huts
  - BathroomsWill these be allowed on land classified as Wild Forest?
  
- There is no mention of allowing the public to use snow mobiles
- There is no mention of horseback riding trails

The following resolution was made:

#### **Resolution Requesting Reconsideration Of DEC Classification of Big Indian Acquisition**

**Offered by: Martie Gailes, Chair**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) purchased over 1200 acres of private land in the Town of Shandaken, and

**WHEREAS**, recreational activity is one of the primary economic engines of the Town of Shandaken, and

**WHEREAS**, these lands represent the only significant acreage remaining in the Town suitable for multiple recreational purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, more than 75% of the land in the Town of Shandaken is currently owned and restricted by either the State of New York or New York City, and

**WHEREAS**, the State has currently classified 38,875 acres in the Town of Shandaken as either “Wilderness” or “Wild Forest”, and

**WHEREAS**, lands owned by the State, classified “Wilderness” or “Wild Forest” are severely limited in potential recreational usage, and

**WHEREAS**, lands classified “Wilderness” or “Wild Forest” are considered vacant land and taxed at the lowest possible rate, and

**WHEREAS**, the DEC is proposing that a total of only 114 acres be added to the “Intensive Use” land area, and

**WHEREAS**, the DEC is proposing amending the Catskill Park Master Plan to allow snow mobile grooming only on the area designated Big Indian Wild Forest, and

**WHEREAS**, the DEC has made no provision for warming huts, bathrooms, and parking lots, and

**THEREFORE**, the Town of Shandaken Parks and Recreation Board requests that the DEC, in its final determination, significantly expand the lands open to “Intensive Use” particularly expanding the recreational potential for lands adjacent the Belleayre Ski Center, allowing the residents of the town and its visitors to maximize the recreational activities available in the Town of Shandaken.

**AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION**

Seconded by C. Chanler

	Roll Ayes	Call Nays
Board Member C. Chanler	<u>  X  </u>	___
Board Member L. Schnack	<u>  X  </u>	___
Board Member S. Stanley	<u>  X  </u>	___
Board Member C. Urban	<u>  X  </u>	___
Chairman M. Gailes	<u>  X  </u>	___

### Other New Business

Alicia Schnack reported that a Family Fun Day Festival is being planned for Saturday, October 19 in Big Indian Park. Working with Mary Lou Stapleton, plans have been made to provide arts and crafts for kids, costume and pumpkin decorating contests. John Michelotti will be bringing "Thomas the Train." Vendors will be selling refreshments. Big Indian Beautification Committee has offered to donate \$150 toward festival expenses. Local businesses are offering gift cards for contest winners.

Sandra Stanley suggested we consider setting a Town-wide Yard Sale date with the sales to be held in Town Parks. This proposal will be revisited.

Public Comment – None was made.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall. The meeting is the third Monday due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Adjournment – Sandra moved at 7:50 p.m. that we adjourn. Carole seconded. The vote was unanimous.