

Shandaken Parks Meeting

08/08/2022 @ Big Indian Park

Attendance:

Kevin VanBlarcum- Liaison to the town board
Samantha Awand-Grotel- Parish Field (Phoenicia)
Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park (Shandaken)
Robert Stanley- Guest

Not Present:

Gael Alba- Parks and Recreation Chair
John Michelotti- Big Indian Park (Big Indian)
Jesse Hooker- Resigned- Smith Park (Pine Hill)

July Meeting:

- Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathy. Approved.

Meetings:

- The last monthly meeting for parks managers is scheduled for Monday, September 12th @ 6pm at Glenbrook Park.
- Kevin suggested that meetings continue throughout the winter months. All present were in agreement.
 - December and February meetings.
 - Stay on course with projects we want to have completed by the spring before the parks are used more often in the summer.
 - Look for grant opportunities during this time and apply for those applicable to our parks and our goals for each.
- Each park manager should make a “to-do” list for their park, to be worked on throughout the fall '22 and spring '23. We can also give these lists to Jesse Hooker, who has contact with retreat groups at Urban Cowboy that are always looking for community volunteer projects. These groups should be supervised to ensure the task is completed properly.

Mt Tremper Park:

- The area where the new bridge is has been used for fishing and swimming. Kevin would like to form a committee to officially create a Shandaken park there.
- Two individuals that are involved in fly fishing, Todd Spire and Mark Loete, will be approached for this committee, as well as anyone else that would like to be involved.
- Kevin has attempted to contact the DOT for a land acquisition. Waiting on return correspondence.
- The goal is to have this park operational by April 2023.

Smith Park:

- With the resignation of Jesse Hooker, the Smith Park manager opening has been listed on the Town of Shandaken website.
 - Manuella (Manny) Jeanpierre, the current summer recreation director and resident of Pine Hill has shown interest.
 - The managers present at this meeting would like to make a formal recommendation to appoint Manny as the Smith Park manager for a 3 year term.
 - Rob Stanley (originally suggested for this position) is happy to step aside, but is always available for help with the parks and is a good resource given his prior involvement with the town.
- New soccer net needed.
- Resurfacing of the existing tennis court and basketball court needed.
 - Turn the current tennis court into a pickleball court.
- Entrance sign needs to be repainted. Ask Marybeth Mills if her Peekamoose team would be willing to help with this.

Parish Field:

- Most of the items on the “to-do” list have been completed.
 - Trees have been trimmed by play area and the basketball court.
 - Broken baby swing has been replaced.
 - Originally thought a local contractor would donate the seal coating for the basketball court, but not sure that is still a viable option. Looking at the cost of supplies for this and will approach the town for approval to purchase said supplies. Dylan Callahan is willing to do the seal coating once supply cost is approved.
 - Still looking to spray paint the current play sets to make them more appealing and inviting, as well as cover up some of the graffiti on them.

Big Indian Park:

- Two more concert series weekends.
 - August 21st- Thunder Ridge
 - August 28th- Country Express
- Fix or remove the seesaw/teetertotter as it is not secured well in the concrete.
- 3rd disc golf basket to be installed.
- Suggested to have Cornell Cooperative look at creating a “river walk” along the embankment of the stream on the outer edge of the park behind the pavilion.

Glenbrook Park:

- Lights at the little league field have been fixed. Thank you, Bill Buckholz, for completing this task. Bill installed these lights originally. We should always refer to Bill for future needs on these lights.
- Suggested to add an addition sign to the interior of the dog park, upon exiting, to remind individuals that they must pick up their dog’s waste.
- April project- fix the upper bathroom so it can still be used.
 - Wasp/bee removal.
 - Painting interior and exterior.
 - New door with lock code.

General Mentions:

- Add large area maps to each park, marking where all other parks are, as well as an ariel view of the park you are in specifically.
- Items for parks at town hall that can be added to each park.
 - Bouncing frog- suggested Parish Field
 - Rock climbing wall- suggested to replace the melted rock dome at Smith Park
 - Chatterbox- suggested for Big Indian
- Smart growth grant to research- Kevin and Samantha will meet on Thursday, August 11th to look into any and all grant opportunities for parks.
 - Verify if there are any remaining monies from the Good Neighbor fund. These funds may have previously been allocated to Smith Park specifically.
- Goals for all parks.
 - EV charging stations.
 - Research who to contact for this. Ask Shandaken Inn/Emerson who already have EV stations. Aaron Bennett may also have some information to get the ball rolling on this.
 - WiFi for all parks- two sperate networks; one for public use and second for emergency services as well as vendors to utilize at special events for payment processing.
 - Contact Andrew Gaul from Hudson River Technologies
 - Lighting and infrastructure for all parks.

Next Meeting- Monday September 12th @ 6pm at Glenbrook Park