

**Shandaken Parks Meeting**  
**07/12/2023 @ the Pine Hill Arms 6pm**

**Attendance:**

**Kevin VanBlarcum-** Liaison to the town board

**Samantha Awand-Gortel-** Parks & Recreation Committee Chair

**Manuella (Manny) Jean Pierre-** Smith Park (Pine Hill)

**Guests:**

**Nolan Wilder-** Esopus Valley Contracting- Plumbing and volunteer.

**Tania Barricklo-** After school programming.

**Not Present:**

**Kathy Williams-** Glenbrook Park (Shandaken)

**John Michelotti-** Big Indian Park (Big Indian)

**Autumn Brookmire-** Parish Field (Phoenicia)

The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm. Manny made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 04/25/23, seconded by Kevin.

➤ **Natural Parks Project:**

- **GoFundMe-** To date we have raised over \$5000 of \$10,000 goal. These funds came from 40 donors. Autumn and Samantha are continuing to spread the word.
  - \$4000 will be used as a retainer for Karine from KaN Landscape Design.
  - Funds will also be used to hire an inspector for all existing playgrounds to see what equipment needs to be removed, what can stay, and bring all parks up to NYS code. All in attendance agreed that we should move forward with this.
- **Grant Applications-** Samantha, Autumn and Barbara Mansfield (experienced grant writer) and Robert Drake (Town Councilman) have met to discuss what information we need to collect in order to apply for grant funding. There have been multiple grants looked at, and now we need to create a committee to help us get the funding.

- **Committee- (discussion after this meeting was held)** With the assistance of Barbara Mansfield, it has been suggested to start with a grant for planning, to include professional consultants and coordination of a volunteer committee of people with needed expertise to position Shandaken for a 2024 shovel-ready application via NYS Consolidated Funding Application/Parks Department. The below categories can consist of individuals and organization such as the CWC and Catskill Center. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please contact Samantha ([sawand@ulstersavings.com](mailto:sawand@ulstersavings.com))
  - **Transportation Planning**
  - **Trail Connectivity**
  - **Watershed Planning**
  - **Accessibility Planning**
  - **Tourism Marketing**
  - **Economic Development**
- **Catchy Project Name:** Forever Wild: Shandaken Parks Project.

➤ **Glennbrook Park:**

- **Dog Park-** Gisi Vella will be getting a list together for dog park improvements (shrubs, new gate etc) and us funds set aside specifically for dog park.
- New split rail fence installed by the pavilion using General Funds.
- Town Supervisor asked Nolan to work on the plumbing for the bathrooms. Heavy rains have created a buildup of sediment from rainwater runoff.

➤ **Smith Park:**

- Basketball nets need to be replaced. Sam has two nets. One hoop needs to be reinforced better as it is currently bending and seems unsafe.
- New soccer nets need to be purchased. (Autumn)

➤ **Parish Field:**

- Basketball court still needs to be seal coated. Asking Dylan Callahan to get a current price for the materials and supplies and seeing if he would still be willing to donate his time to complete this.

➤ **Summer Recreation:**

- \$500 donation from Ulster Savings Bank and \$1500 worth of food from Troy Martin at the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley!
- Manny has reported that this has been extremely helpful giving kids small snack bags during the week and goodie bags for kids to take home over the weekend.

➤ **Rock Cut Park: Mt Tremper**

- Committee met and brainstormed how to create an inviting and safe park.
- The natural playground project would be ideal for this location and an inspector and Karine (LaN Landscape Design) will look at feasibility of this project.