

**Shandaken Parks & Recreation Committee
January Meeting- 01/26/2024 @ 6:30pm- Town Hall**

Attendance:

Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to the Town Board
Samantha Awand-Gortel- P&R Committee Chair
Barbara Mansfield- Parish Field Manager
Autumn Brookmire- Big Indian Park Manager
Nolan Wilder- Rock Cut Park Interim Manager

Guest: Rob Stanley

Not In Attendance:

Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park Manager
Nick Torres- Smith Park Manager
Christina Varga- Resource Development

- **Meeting called to order @ 6:37 pm**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **November minutes approval:**
 - Motion to approve made by- Kevin
 - Seconded by- Babs
 - All in favor
- **Skatepark Project:**
 - There have been some great connections made with community members that are able to help move this project forward. Everyone has connected with Edrick and Kerry.
 - Heritage account- Looking into remaining funds if any. \$7k previously used for skatepark design.
 - Good neighbor funds- If any remaining funds were invested, could we use the interest on those funds if there isn't a penalty? Kevin will discuss with full board.
 - Fundraiser event tentatively at Parish Hall in February.
- **Parks Project:** See 3D design photos for Glenbrook.
 - **Grant Updates-** Babs
 - T-Mobile Grant was submitted. \$50K matching grant. Decisions announced mid-February.
 - DEC Grant submitted. Request for \$125k

- OMNIA partners for playground equipment- The town currently has an online account setup. This program gives us 10% off playground equipment specifically.
 - Lowes Grant- Putting together specifics (contact name and info for P&R) to then share so people can nominate P&R parks project for this grant. Nominations are open now through February 19th, 2024. We should promote this through social media and through town website.
 - Shandaken Parks & Recreation Master Plan update would be helpful for grant applications too. We would need board approval to update. As a committee we should look at the current document and update on our own, removing projects that have been completed, and adding new ones for the future. We would not need to hire anyone to help with this.
 - Details needed for RFP for Karine on other Glenbrook projects- Babs?
 - ARPA Funds? \$400k- These funds need to be allotted for specific use or spent by 12/2024. Looking to use some of the money for the outdoor gym that MVP helps install.
- Trex Bench-
 - Plastic collections at the same locations we had them over the summer. These plastic donations are being brought to Bennett Middle School. We should meet with Karen Hadley about this because the new requirements are a full year of collections and 1000lbs total (double last year's requirements.)
 - We have the bench and think it might be a nice addition to the dog park at Glenbrook. Also looking to dedicate this bench in memory of Kathleen Myers.
- Surveys-
 - Autumn/Babs- Have we gathered all the online information and come up with stats and data to use for comp plan and/or grants? We have information ready to use.
 - Has an email list been compiled from those that completed the surveys? Maybe we can add this to the shandakenparksproject@gmail.com contact list? Autumn will take care of this.
 - Online surveys are closed. If we feel we needed to collect more data and feedback we have printable versions of both youth and adult surveys.
- Parks land use agreements-
 - Big Indian- DOT owned- Kevin update?
 - Parish Field- Archdioceses owned- Kevin/Babs update.
 - Babs spoke with Courtney McMahon at the Archdioceses, the first person to really listen to and understand what our needs are in Phoenicia. Babs will give this contact information to Kevin. Short term agreement would be beneficial at the very least.
 - Subdivision of the field and the Tan Bark trail, and sale of the field to the town is the long-term goal.
 - This is also one of the few landing zones for emergency helicopters.
 - Events at this park-

- Easter egg hunt
- 4th of July post parade event
- Turkey Trot
- Phoenicia Farmers Market spring/summer season
 - Already preparing for their next season and need to know information for vendor enrollment, specific terms of use, and insurance needed.
 - At this time the town would not be able to permit us of the field to the farmers market without an agreement with the church.
 - The market may consider using Glenbrook Park instead because of its pavilion and Wi-Fi connection.
- Parks committee and volunteer project lists-
 - **Park Photos-** build a file of photos for each park. More urgent to get photos of Glenbrook pavilion, bathroom, and dog park. Autumn has arial photos and side view photos of all parks! We will put together a shareable document.
 - **Smith Park-** Nick
 - Paint the soccer goal frames and install new nets.
 - New basketball hoops and nets need to be ordered.
 - Basketball and tennis court resurfacing needed.
 - Nick reached out to Pickleball USA for details for installation on the existing tennis court.
 - **Glenbrook-**
 - Basketball post needs to be straightened out. Possibly new net.
 - Plant trees in the dog park or install a small lean-to or pergola structure for shade. Rob Stanley would like to plant a tree in memory of his mother.
 - Install Trex bench in the dog park or between dog park and playground.
 - Raised flower beds- Kathy- underneath the Neil Grant Memorial Plaque. Add his photo as well.
 - Karine and Catherine Del Tufo (CAC) connected with each other about pollinator pathways/gardens in the parks. Caterine said that these types of flowers need to be planted in the fall. Working with Ulster Savings Bank to help donate the seeds through Hudson Valley Seed Co.
 - Karisa Battle from Citizens Science would be able to help with educational signage on a phenology trail.
 - Phenology = the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate, plant, and animal life.
 - **Of note:** CAC is putting together an Earth Day Celebration April 20th. They spoke about an event at the Phoenicia Playhouse but may also want to utilize a park. Maybe we can coordinate a volunteer day simultaneously.

- **Rock Cut Park- Kevin**
 - When we start planning for this park, we would like to include a memorial for the young individuals that were in the accident at the intersection of 28 and 212 last month.
 - The town sent a letter to the DOT to do a safety survey of the blind spots.
 - Decembers flood completely flooded the area closest to the Esopus. The most we should add to this area of the park are picnic benches. We should keep all other ideas for equipment etc to the wooded areas and toward route 28.
 - Committee meeting TBD.

- Next P&R meeting TBD

- **Motion to adjourn- Kevin Secoded by- Babs @7:50pm**