

Shandaken Parks Meeting

04/25/2023 @ the Town Hall 6:30pm

Attendance:

Kevin VanBlarcum- Liaison to the town board

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Parks & Recreation Committee Chair

Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park (Shandaken)

Autumn Brookmire- Parish Field (Phoenicia)

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

Not Present: John Michelotti- Big Indian Park (Big Indian)

- **Natural Parks Proposal:** See attached document.
 - **Phase 1-** Bring all parks up to NYS Code- Meet with an inspector for all four (4) parks and determine which park to start with.
 - **Funding-**
 - This proposal includes several grants we could apply for.
 - Lobby for a town budget line for infrastructure.
 - Ask Councilman Drake for assistance with grant writing.
 - ARPA funds through the town?
 - Autumn would be the liaison for this project and start community engagement through social media and in person at various community events and locations.
 - Suggestion to start a Trex® bench fundraiser like the Bennett school did. Collect different types of plastics.
 - See attached for how this fundraiser worked.
 - Sam reached out to Karen Hadley at OCS for some details on how we could start this for a bench for one of the parks.
 - Trex ® benches are weatherproof and would be a great addition to the parks.

- **Parks Cleanup dates:**
 - See attached breakdown of projects by park, volunteers, professionals, and Shandaken Highway.

- Joyce Grant has created a new Facebook page specifically for the parks. Postings will include the need for volunteers (they will contact Joyce if interested) and the below dates.
- 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9am.
 - May 13th and 27th
 - June 10th and 24th
 - July 8th and 22nd
 - August 12th and 26th
- Rotate the parks based on completion of volunteer tasks the prior Saturday.
- Start at Glenbrook Park.
 - Isaiah Martin (IDM Contracting) has offered to fix the bathroom at Glenbrook by the baseball field. He will not be able to come on the Saturdays we have scheduled but will do it when he can.
 - Add the following to the list of projects-
 - Gate kits installed on dog park fence.
 - Simple lean-to or pergola for shaded areas at dog park. Eventually plant trees.
 - Solar lights at the entrance of the park.
 - Raised flower beds.
- Create a list of supplies and materials needed to complete each project.
- Funding- Barbara has information on funds raised from the Turkey Trot. Samantha reached out already for total. Use these funds to purchase supplies needed.
- Send volunteer information to:
 - The Shandaken Inn
 - Urban Cowboy
 - Peekamoose

➤ **Summer Recreation: Manny**

- There are many children that attend summer camp that have food insecurities. They are not sent to camp with lunches or snacks, nor are they sent with money to purchase anything.

- The Phoenicia Library has helped in the past with providing food to distribute. Manny makes sure that no child is pointed out as NEEDING this service as it could create a situation where the child is bullied.
- Reach out to Sophie Grant at the Phoenicia Farmers Market and/or Jane Todd at the Phoenicia Food Pantry to see if they can assist with this problem.

- **Ulster County Trails:** Kevin
 - UC Trails meeting was held, and the Rail Trail proposal was approved.
 - This trail will span from Belleayre Mountain across from the Highmount Post Office to Belleayre Beach.
 - The project will start around spring of 2024.

- **Mount Tremper Park Committee:** Kevin
 - This property is owned by the DOT, but they are willing to let the Town of Shandaken create a park.
 - A few Shandaken residents have joined this committee. Let Kevin know if anyone else is interested.
 - This park would not allow swimming but is a great spot for fishing and a pollinator pathway.