

**Shandaken Parks & Recreation Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 30, 2012**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Present: Heather Roberts, Chair  
Carole Chanler  
Michael Formont  
Martie Gales  
Alfie Higley  
Sandra Stanley

Guests: Mike Wentland  
Brent Gotsch  
Joyce Grant

Call to Order – 6:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Minutes

Heather Roberts moved to accept the Minutes as written. Carole Chanler seconded. The vote was unanimous

Communications, Conditions and Recommendations

- Big Indian Park Manager, Martie Gales, reported that June and July have been a busy time for improvements and events in Big Indian Park.

Electrical work was completed extending power to additional areas of the park with underground cable and four new outlets. Gary Gales decorated four Maple trees with tiny white LED lights that are timed to go on at dusk and off at dawn. Special thanks to Brian and Cassie Perez who assisted in extensive clean-up after the excavation.

A work crew consisting of Bob Walsh, Gary Gales and John Michelotti tore apart and removed the debris from two picnic tables that were in hazardous shape.

John Michelotti removed the rotted fascia board on the large pavilion. It was replaced with new board which was stained to match the building.

Two BBQ grills have been installed in the park. A small one, purchased from Park n Pool, suitable for a family picnic was set in concrete beyond the large pavilion. Thanks to Brian Perez, Gary Gales and John Michelotti.

A larger grill measuring over seven feet in length was also created. Sean Cassels a local mason designed and constructed a grill divided into two sections. He created an extraordinarily handsome grill by facing the concrete structure with river rock. Brian Perez dug the pit with his backhoe. Wadler brothers donated and delivered the concrete to create the pad. Bob Kalb assisted in collecting river rock and the Broderhoff Community donated the labor for the stainless steel grates.

During this time the park also hosted the Annual Car Show and the Pow Wow. Both were well attended and successfully completed events. Pictures are attached.

- Pine Hill Park Manager, Carole Chanler reported that she has received an estimate for restoring the tennis court. The work to be done includes:

- Removal of a portion of the fence for access then replacing the fence
- Cleaning of the surface
- Filling cracks
- Patch low and broken areas
- Add 2" layer of blacktop
- Add new net and posts
- Strip the court

The question was raised as to whether the Town could provide equipment and manpower for the restoration. The process that needs to be followed includes establishing the goal of restoring tennis in town (as specified in the Comprehensive Plan), identifying stake holders, and developing funding sources.

Mike Wentland was asked if there was any flexibility in the "skate board" fund which has been associated with Pine Hill Park. He indicated that major donors who established the fund should be contacted. The original fund did include some flexibility in that the monies were specified for a skate board park or playground equipment.

At 7:00 p.m. Heather Roberts moved and Carole Chanler seconded that this meeting be adjourned to allow for our special meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

- Glenbrook Park Manager, Sandra Stanley, reported that the flag pole has been set in concrete. The work on the pavilion is completed and looks very good.
- Parish Field Manager, Michael Formont, will be tightening the screws on the swing set. Sandra gave Mike informational materials concerning padding for the basketball poles. Mike will pursue locating commercial grade padding. It is very important that pads be placed at the Parish Field as the Church's insurer has specifically required them. A question concerning insurance for Tan Bark trail has been resolved. The trail is insured.

Joyce Grant, Town Clerk, asked that all park managers share via e-mail pictures of their parks and events held in them so that the parks could be promoted on the Town web site.

- Recreational Holdings – Heather Roberts reported that AYSO and Onteora have submitted requests for Emerson field usage. The two parties resolved conflicts in the schedule.
- Summer recreation – Heather Roberts reported that the Program is going well. In the event of rain, participants will move to the pavilion at Belleayre Beach. Heather will determine the number of this year's participants.

#### New Business

- Classification of the Big Indian Acquisition

Martie Gales discussed the meeting she and Heather Roberts attended concerning the Big Indian Acquisition, a 1200 acre parcel purchased by the DEC. This land is undergoing the usage classification process established by the DEC. Public comments are being sought.

In April 2012, the Shandaken Parks and Recreation Board sent out 2300 questionnaires seeking input from the residents of the Town of Shandaken. 280 responses were received.

While many aspects of recreation in the Town were addressed, it is clear that access to hiking and biking trails ranked highly among the respondents.

Specifically:

- 42% of the respondents ranked usage of the NYS Trail Network as a recreation activity in which they participated. Of those 1/3 frequented the trails more than 11 times annually.
- Usage of the NYS Trail Network ranked as the second most popular activity for respondents.
- 49% of the respondents evaluated hiking in Shandaken positively.
- 51% of the respondents ranked developing biking trails as very important.
- 56% of the respondents ranked developing walking/hiking trails as very important.

Specifically respondents sought:

Mountain biking trails (on DEC lands)  
Safer bike trails  
Better signage including trail guides  
Designated, less steep family hiking trails

Unfortunately, the Town faces a challenge in meeting these preferences as 94% of the Town of Shandaken has significant development limitations or is highly regulated. (Source: Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Shandaken II-13)

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's acquisition of 1200 acres, located in the hamlet of Big Indian adjacent the Belleayre Ski Center, offers a tremendous opportunity to maximize recreational possibilities for the people of the State of New York and, particularly, the residents of the Town of Shandaken.

This parcel is a rare piece of land in the Catskill Park, in that it has a relatively flat ridge top; it has an existing "road system" that has been well-built and maintained; and it also adjoins the "Intensive Use" parcel of Belleayre Ski Center. These three conditions allow this parcel to have some of the greatest potential for use by the broadest-base of users who live in or visit the Catskill Park.

Given these conditions, Carole Chanler moved and Michael Formont seconded that the following resolution be forwarded to the Shandaken Town Board:

**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, snow mobiling and cross country skiing.**

The vote was unanimous.

#### New Business

- Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

Brent Gotsch, Watershed Educator, spoke about the Stream Access and Recreation Committee sponsored by this program. He anticipates that the committee will be funded in the range of \$50,000 (by the DEC) and much of this money can be spent in Shandaken. He invited participation by a representative of Shandaken Parks and Recreation to join the committee. Martie Gailes offered to serve as liaison.

He also indicated that he believed an opportunity might be coming up shortly to get permission to develop the railway bed between Phoenicia and Pine Hill into a hiking/biking trail. This is dependent on agreements between the County and the railroad supporters.

#### Next Meeting Scheduled for:

6:30 p.m. Monday, August 13, 2012

#### Adjournment

9:05 p.m. Heather Robert moved and Martie Gailes seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.