

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

August 16th @ 6pm – Big Indian Park

Attendance:

Kevin VanBlarcum- Liaison to the town board

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Parks & Recreation Committee Chair

John Michelotti- Big Indian Park Manager

Autumn Brookmire- Parish Field Manager

Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park Manager

Guests:

Marilyn Manning

Nolan Wilder- Owner- Esopus Valley Contracting- Background in permaculture design. Volunteer

Rob Stanley

- **Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm.**
- **July meeting minutes approval.**
 - **Motion to approve-** Samantha
 - **Seconded-** Kevin
- **Natural Parks Project:**
 - As of Sunday, 08/13/23 our GoFundMe was over the \$10,000.00 goal! This is very exciting news.
 - We are going to increase this goal to \$100,000.00 and have updated the GoFundMe page.
 - When the playgrounds are completed, we would like to have a list of all donors in one or all of the parks.
 - Autumn Brookmire has asked her sons to draw thank you cards to send to our larger donors.
 - One individual donation will be given for \$10,000.00 as well- to remember and honor Reginald Bennett.
 - Samantha would like to make a motion that we dedicate the first completed playground to Reginald Bennett. Create a plaque. Seconded by Autumn Brookmire.

- Karine from KaN Landscape Design has been retained for this project (\$4000 from GoFunfdMe money)
 - Meeting with Karine and an inspector on 08/29 at Smith Park at 9am to start figuring out what items can stay, what needs to be removed from current playgrounds, and anything additional needed to bring the parks up to code.
- **Community Contributions-** Reach out to Shandaken senior citizens, high school, and elementary school students to come up with ideas for things they would like to see in our playgrounds and our parks.
- **Grant Funds-** Forever Wild: Shandaken Parks Project will be used to apply for grant funding. Thank you, Babs Mansfield and Robert Drake, for your assistance with understanding these grants.
 - The parks and playgrounds project will take more money than we can raise from our community. We are looking into what NYS grants would best be suited for our project(s).
 - To better apply for these grants, we are looking to form a sub-committee consisting of professionals and locals for the following categories: If you have anyone you want to suggest for any of the committees, please let Samantha know.
 - **Transportation Planning-** To help with parking needs for all parks.
 - **Trail Connectivity and Signage-** we have several hiking and walking trails that are centrally located to our parks and utilizing them as a draw to the parks would be beneficial.
 - **Watershed planning-** Many of our parks are in flood zones, and we feel that creating plans for flood mitigation would be in our best interest. Grant funding will be harder in flood zones without this. (Kevin Report on Watershed considerations)
 - **Handicapped Accessibility-** We would like our parks and playgrounds to be accessible to all individuals who wish to use them.
 - **Tourism Marketing-** Help attract tourists to the parks, and hopefully to our Shandaken businesses.

- **Environmental Awareness and Education-** Create teachable moments throughout the parks where individuals can learn about their natural surroundings.

➤ **Glenbrook Park:**

- At the July Town Board Meeting a resolution was passed to accept bids for maintenance to the pavilion, bathrooms, and grills. Specific tasks list coming soon.
- Samantha purchased solar string lights for the entrance of the park.
- Dog Park- Gisi Vella send a list of wants/needs for the park.
- New gates need to be installed.
- New split rail fencing installed by pavilion.

➤ **Smith Park:**

- Basketball nets were given to the Town for replacement. They were made aware of the backboard needing to be secured properly so it isn't leaning forward.
- Soccer goal nets have been purchased and will be replaced by volunteers. Painting the goal frames would be great too. This should be done soon as kids can still play soccer in the fall.

➤ **Parish Field:**

- Need to cut one of the dead trees behind the slide. It is unsafe.
- Still waiting on a new quote from Dylan Callahan for seal coating the basketball court. Use town's general funds for this, once an itemized list of supplies

➤ **Big Indian Park:**

- John Michelotti would like to be included in the inspections, especially for Big Indian, as well as the Big Indian Beautification Committee.

➤ **Rock Cut Park:**

- Action Plan Meeting- to be determined.
- Rob Stanley proposal to create a natural amphitheater with a platform and sails attached to 4 posts/existing trees.
 - We could potentially create these in other parks.
- Committee ideas:
 - Picnic area
 - Local artist sculptures
 - Bocci Court
 - Pollinator pathway

Meeting Adjured at 7:33pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 09/20/2023 @ 6pm- Location TBD