

**Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
07/15/2025 @ 6pm at Glenbrook Park**

Attendance:

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair
Nick Torres- Smith Park Manager
Barbara Mansfield- Parish Field Manager
Nolan Wilder- Rock Cut Park Manager
River Wild- Dog Park Manager

Not Present:

Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park Manager
Autumn Brookmire- Big Indian Park Manager
Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to Town Board

Guests:

Bill Andrews- Shandaken Beautification Committee
Kayla and Tom Sharon- Mountain Valley Little League/Shandaken
Summer Ball

Meeting called to order 5:29pm

Motion by- Barbara

Seconded by- Nolan

Pledge of Allegiance

Prior meeting minutes approval

Motion by- Nolan

Seconded by – Barbara

All in favor- Y

Farewell, Nolan! This is Nolans last meeting before moving out of state. We appreciate all his time, efforts, and ideas with the committee. You will be missed, Nolan!

Thank you! Samantha expressed her gratitude to the committee for continuing meetings and moving projects forward while she stepped away from the committee for 4+ months. Special thank you to Barbara for stepping up as interim committee chair as well as Autumn for supporting Barbara.

Memorial Benches:

- Benches cost \$1500 including delivery- they are cedar and engraved.
- Locally made by Gary Mead.
- One bench has been purchased and placed at Glenbrook in memory of Marilyn Manning. Gary gave us a discount on this prototype bench. P&R fronted \$850, and subsequent donations from a group of Marilyn's friends and family have almost covered this outlay.
- We would like to put more of these in each of the parks. River will make a sponsorship form to send out to the community. Payments can be made through GoFundMe.

Mountain Valley Little League- Tom and Kayla

- Glenbrook baseball field dirt- Donated by Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health.
 - The dirt comes from NJ and cannot spread until the summer season is over.
 - Looking for a tarp to cover the dirt. (update: MF Whitney Hose Co purchased the tarp)
 - The last batch of dirt lasted 3 years.
- Banner sponsors- Brian Hommell (pavilion repairs) would like to have a banner hanging and we will get them in contact with Kayla.

- Volunteers needed for MVLL. The season runs from mid-September through June. Contact them through Facebook Mountain Valley Little League.

Glenbrook Park:

- Remaining grant money- \$22,193.10
- Pigeon Spikes- use these for the pavilion because the pigeons make a mess on the floors and tables.
 - These spikes would cost \$5000+ to purchase and install.
 - There is another cheaper option of an ultrasonic bird preventer.
- Entry wall/gate repair- getting a quote and looking to use grant money for this.
- Signage- Kurt Boyer put together a quote that would cost \$11,643.10 and once approved we would use grant funds. See the separate attachment in an email.
- CREST Funding- Still no word from them on when we will receive the funds we were awarded. This will likely push the playground build to 2026.
- River will be making curtains for the bathroom windows.
- Dog Park-
 - River would like to fundraise for an agility course.
 - We would also like to create an Instagram for the dog park and will ask for permission before doing so.

Parish Field:

- Mini-Golf-
 - Varga picking up equipment that was donated. Photo attached to email.
 - Friday 08/29/2025 is the ribbon cutting for the mini golf. Varga needs volunteers and would like a P&R representative there.

- Varga will create a list for anything else we might need and then we can put out a call for donations. They can use the GoFundMe for monetary donations and should leave a comment on the dollar amount they donated and that it was specific to mini golf.
- Tanbark Playground-
 - Autumn created a painted rock snake at the Phoenicia Farmers Market which she will place in the play area.
 - Weed killer- make a vinegar concoction and choose a date to spray the play area before the PFM ends in October.
 - On our next volunteer day, we should inform Christina at Woodland Playhouse because they would have helped. They have a play educator, Phoebe Wyllyamz, who wants to be more involved in the playgrounds. Autumn would like to invite her to the August meeting.
- Dog waste receptacle-
 - This is being used for general garbage disposal, instead of just the dog waste bags. Also, it should be cemented into the ground.
 - For events, maybe we can use garbage cans donated by Nolan and spray painted (property of Shandaken Parks & Rec) This would only be event usage and not all season, as there is no one to collect the garbage otherwise.
- **Smith Park:**
 - Skatepark-
 - Running a Zeffy campaign through the Pine Hill Community Center and raised \$500 which is enough for drawings of a concrete skate park.
 - A lot of garbage is being left in the park.
 - Install trail cams.

- Work on the electricity- Nick Torres will check it out again and have further conversations with the town board.
- Water Access-
 - A portion of the brush lining the stream was cut back, and it looks like there is a nice little spot to go to. Pine Hill Fire Dept is hoping to dig that out to make a small swimming spot.
- New Orda Rep- Gigi Loizzo- owner of Belleayre Lodge and will hopefully help us with access from Smith to Belleayre Beach.
- NY Forward w/Wellington Project
 - Walking paths
 - Mobility and exercise stations
 - Pump track – Autumn in contact with Billy Denter from Overlook Mountain Bikes to help with cost and design. The compacted dirt for this track would help with flood mitigation.
 - Permanent skatepark- would also help with flood mitigation.
- **Big Indian Park:**
 - Paint the merry-go-round.
 - Summer Music Series on Sundays- First concert had around 100 people in attendance!
 - Requested a second porta potty for the summer, and the Town Board approved.
 - Monkey bars are broken, and Highway does not want the liability to try and fix them, plus they are so old they will continue to rust and break. Highway will be removing the monkey bars.
 - Broken ground level lights that need to be removed. Nick looked at them and said he could handle the project.

- **Rock Cut Park:**

- It was noted that this park was packed on July 4th with no one to monitor the area. (ex: swimming is not permitted but MANY people were in the water)
- Kevin spoke with DEC/DEP.
 - Interpretive signage as well as alerts to the ownership of the parcels.
 - The City and State have money for this, and we are hoping they can spare funding for these signs.
 - Phenology trails and other educational features.

Meeting adjournment 6:38pm

Motion made by – Babs

Seconded by- Nolan

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 19th @ 5:30pm
in Big Indian Park.**