

Parks & Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda
08/19/2025 @ 5:30pm at Big Indian Park

Attendance:

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair
Barbara Mansfield- Parish Field Manager
Kathy Williams- Glenbrook Park Manager
Autumn Brookmire- Big Indian Park Manager
Kerry Henderson- Skate Park Manager
River Houska- Dog Park Manager
Christina Varga- Resource Development

Not Present:

Nick Torres- Smith Park Manager
Kevin Van Blarcum- liaison to Town Board

Guests:

Bill Andrews, Mary Lou Stapleton, Martha Davis, Rafael and Katie Santiago, Catherine del Tufo, Steve White, Esteretta Sharp

Meeting called to order @ 5:30pm

Motion by Babs

Seconded by Kerry

Pledge of Allegiance

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion by Babs

Seconded by Kerry

All in favor Y

Big Indian:

- Play equipment-
 - Monkey bars have been removed.
 - If Woodland Playhouse doesn't want the playground equipment we remove from Glenbrook, we should at least put the one blue and orange piece in Big Indian.
 - Paint merry-go-round (blue and orange to match the above-mentioned piece if moved) – Come up with a date in the next couple of months to do this?

- Install rock climbing wall from town hall.
- Some of the local Big Indian residents, and the Shandaken Beautification Committee are particularly interested in seeing a slide installed. Metal slide was removed when we initially inspected the parks, as those are old and unsafe.
- Ice skating rink- we have a collapsable rink in storage at Glenbrook that could be set up in the winter. We would need to discuss this with the Town Board for approval (is liability an issue) and if approved, consult with the Big Indian Fire Dept. to fill with water.
- Splash Pad-
 - Many locals would love a splash pad after visiting the newly installed one in Hunter. Their splash pad was purchased by the Hunter Foundation, and unfortunately, we do not have donors of that caliber in Shandaken.
 - Because of flooding issues, we cannot add any additional impervious surfaces to the park, so I thought the already paved parking lot toward the pavilion may be a good location for this. Access to the water source as well? Would the drainage help flooding?
- Maintenance needed-
 - Hornets nest removal near entrance of park in a ditch - Steve
 - Unsafe tree limb cut- Steve
 - Ask Hoppy Quick to look at the statue at the entrance and see if it is salvageable. Some think it is hollow and rotting and needs to be removed.
 - If statue is salvageable, we need to fix or replace the light under it. It should not stay on all day, only at night. Solar? – Nick Torres
 - Ground lights still need to be removed - Nick Torres
 - Replace the flag pole.

Simpson Park: Corner of Main St Phoenicia and Route 214 where the gazebo is.

- Install the bouncy frog there for one playground element. We have the frog at Town Hall. Needs to be pressure washed before installing.
- Install Trex bench instead of B.I. because we want all the parks to have the same sponsored benches.

- Find/purchase a rubber duck sculpture to honor the duck race at that park and draw more attention to it. Maybe Hoppy Quick can make a wooden one and we paint it?
- Conservation Advisory Council has a preliminary idea to create a pollinator area here as well. Possibility to coordinate with the Phoenicia Rotary.

Glenbrook Park:

- CREST Funding- Robert Drake submitted all the information to DASNY and looks like we will be able to get the playground started this year!
 - Next steps- official announcement event with Senator Hinchey at Glenbrook Park (date TBD but likely in October) Ideas for an event?
 - Playground equipment was purchased on August 5th after town resolution was passed to work with playground company Kompan. Delivery of equipment TBD, but likely late fall. Work will begin once we have this date set. More information to come.
 - Do we need the Town Board to pass a resolution to commit a \$20k match - advised that the signed grant application stating towns match will require it to be part of the 2026 budget, and a resolution isn't needed.
- Smart Growth Grant Funds-
 - Funds breakdown:
 - DEC awarded us \$125,000.
 - Town was responsible for \$33,000 match.
 - Total we need to expend from Smart Growth award is \$158,000.
 - To date we have expended \$127,806.90 which includes funds paid for Hommel's pavilion repairs.
 - Less Hommel we have \$30,1963.10 to spend.
 - Kurt Boyer paid in full \$10,550.
 - Remaining funds to expend are \$19,643.10
 - Door closures and privacy film have been ordered for bathroom.
 - Rob Stanley fixed the sink.
 - River and Mike will provide a quote for the entry way wall and gate repairs. See attached.
 - Kathy asked if we could use some of the remaining grant money to replace the barbeque grill. Measurements are 32" wide and 28" deep.
- Bathroom Access- Now that the bathroom is fixed, do we want to consider leaving one open for people passing through? The one door has a code lock that not everyone knows the code to.

- Dog Park-
 - Instagram page- Collaborate with Phoenicia Business Association to create Dogs of Shandaken Instagram. Other businesses post pics of their furry visitors, including Tender Land Home, Graham & Co etc. These posts always get a lot of likes. Do “guest take-overs” with businesses for a better social reach.
 - Bags come from Barbara Twerdak.
 - Trees- We need to reach out to Soil & Water to ask for the number of trees we are looking for. Catherine del Tufo offered to reach out.
 - We would like to use some of the SG funds to repair the dog fence.
- Cedar Log- Can highway move a cedar log from Parish to Glenbrook, please- Added to highways list.
- Signage-
 - Maps- Autumn reached out to Steven Weinberg and Paul Weil, local artists who have designed local maps, to see if they would be interested in designing our parks map for Glenbrook signage and for future parks pamphlets. She also has a contact for a designer that does the maps for the Catskill Visitor Center and another contact from the Phoenicia Farmers Market.
 - We would include all parks, some nearby trailheads, CVC, gas station/EV charging station logos, fork and knife logo, and emergency buildings like firehouses and police station.
 - Once we have drafts of maps from different artists, we will have a committee vote to decide which one we will go with.
 - Autumn contacted Liam Bertheaud, former intern for KaN Designers and neighbor to Glenbrook Park. He is a history enthusiast and has volunteered to help us with the history panel information for the signage. She will also reach out to Shandaken Historical Museum to have a well-rounded panel of history.
- Phoenicia Library Balkan Fest- Saturday, September 20th 3pm-7pm at Glenbrook!



Smith Park:

- **NY Forward Grant-**
 - Pump track and walking path-Tahawus Trails is a local company that offers trail-related services and recently worked on a project in Lost Clove (Big Indian) constructing mountain bike trails. There is a concern with Maintenance.
 - Autumn spoke with Jan Jaffe about building a bridge from the edge of the park to the future new parking lot in Pine Hill (another endeavor for NYF grant) and talked with Kevin about feasibility of the bridge and need to look at some grading maps and do a walk-thru before we reach out to get proposals (which Tahawus Trails also does)
 - Last meeting we talked about the “swimming hole access” and Kevin said for liability reasons we should not be encouraging swimming in any of our parks.
 - Karine from KaN Landscape Design is working on a proposal for NYF grant for a design for the whole park and will submit it by end of August.
 - Include updating to proper storm runoff drainage. State DOT conversation because one of the main issues is across the street which is State owned.
- **Skate Park update- Kerry**
 - Smart Growth grant opportunity if you/PHCC can raise \$20-\$30K “match” – Due 10/01 and do not think this is a viable opportunity.
 - Skate Park is included in the NYF grant application Jan Jaffe is working on.
 - Planning for the permanent skate park is going well. Bids are needed but Rampage Skate Park does seem to be one of the lowest. They will be asked to submit a bid when the time comes.
 - Suggestion to have skateboards and protective gear at PHCC and Morton Memorial Library for people to borrow.
 - Possible fundraiser coming in September at the Pine Hill Community Center.
 - Fundraiser with Tubby’s in Kingston on 08/31/2025



Parish Field:

- Mini Golf- Grand opening/ribbon cutting Friday August 29th (time?)
 - Thank you, Ellie Kneissl and volunteers, for helping with the building days on 08/15 and 08/16!
 - Generous donation from HVFYH of \$2000.00 and thank you to ALA Unit 950 for allowing us to run the funds through their account as non-profit.
 - Hole sponsors:
 - Ulster Savings Bank
 - Phoenicia Diner
 - Phoenicia Lodge
 - Melange
 - The Graham & Co
 - Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health
 - Shandaken Inn
 - Ellie Kneissl (sweat equity warrants free hole)
 - Kurt Boyer
 - \$3500 in sponsorship funding!
 - Christina invited Sarah Kramer Harrison, director of Arts, Culture and Open Spaces, to the ribbon cutting, as well as town officials.
 - Mulching around the course- Highway prefers mulch for their park maintenance. Rafael and Matt Santiago came through with loads of mulch and volunteers with Christina Varga to spread it.

Rock Cut Park:

- Manager needed- The call for a manager was put on the town's website and both the town and parks Facebook pages. As of now, we have not had any applications. Joyce continues to repost the manager position. If you know anyone in the Mt Tremper area that would be interested, please let them know to email Peter supervisor@shandaken.gov

All Parks: Benches! We have an alternative bench for our bench campaign.

- Pre-discount cost is \$1860 each without Omnia discount or freight or memorial plaque. We discussed adding 4 benches to each park. This is more than the cost from Gary M. but he has limited inventory.
- Sam will reach out to another local that may be able to help us.

- Black locust wood is what makes these more expensive because they will not rot.
- Babs will create a memorial sponsorship form.

Summer Recreation Program:

- Manny Jeanpierre is the director of the summer camp program, and we would like to ask that she becomes an active member of the committee.
- There was a very late bid placed for camp transportation which increased that expense significantly and should be addressed much earlier in the year for 2026.

2026 Budget:

- There have been tracking issues with the town's budget line for P&R as well as the tracking of grant funding and town fund matches (some from ARPA and general funds)
- Request sent for budget breakdown YTD for 2025 for both P&R town budget line and ARPA funds used.

Motion made by Barbara to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Kathy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm