

**Parks & Recreation Committee
February Meeting Minutes
02/20/2026 @ 5:30pm at Town Hall**

Attendance:

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair
Autumn Brookmire- Committee Vice Chair
Gina Krause- Rock Cut Park Manager
Christina Varga- Marketing and PR/Social Media Manager

Not Present:

Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to Town Board
Nick Torres- Smith Park Manager
Kayla Sharon- Glenbrook Park Manager
Conor Malarkey- Big Indian Park Manager
Bex Coldwell- Parish Field Manager
Kerry Henderson- Skate Park Manager

Guests:

Manuella (Manny) Jean-Pierre – Shandaken Summer Recreation Program Director

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm

Pledge of Allegiance- Y

January Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion by Autumn

Second by Varga

All in favor Y

Reminder about the Bear Wise presentation on Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm at Town Hall

Social media: The new parks pages for Facebook and Instagram have been created. We used our new logo and moved many of the posts from the old page. If you are on either platform, please like these pages. Search Shandaken Parks and Recreation and look for the logo below.



- All park specific events, including park volunteer days, should be sent to Christina Varga Phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com and shandakenparksparksproject@gmail.com with subject line “Parks & Recreation Post.” These should be sent at least 1 week prior to event dates.

- Varga created a social media plan which outlines major categories for posts and how often these posts will occur. See the attached document.

Summer Rec Program: Manuella (Manny) Jean-Pierre. 18 days over the summer starting July 8th, 2026.

- Budget- The town has a separate budget line labeled Summer Recreation, Pers Svc from General Funds for \$22,000.00 to support programming and needs, as well as \$50,000.00 for staffing.
- Transportation- Bids have been put out to the public too close to the start of the program, making some of the proposals very expensive. Often, First Student comes in as the lowest bid.
 - Buses are needed for daily transportation of children on program days, as well as the 2-3 fields trips.
 - Typically, ~\$4000 for the summer
- Field Trips 2026-
 - It was suggested to keep the field trips local instead of going to NYC. Less of a cost for transportation and for kids to attend.
 - Zoom Flume
- Food Insecurity- There are many children that show up without lunch or snacks, and no money to purchase anything on a regular/recurring basis. The regional food bank provided a plethora of food that Manny could pre-bag to distribute to the children she knows need it, going as far as sending home bags for the weekend so she knew they were properly nourished. This is an additional cost that could interfere with other expenses needed from the town's budget.
 - Suggested to speak with Sophie and Gisi from the Phoenicia Food Pantry and Phoenicia Farmers Market. There is plenty of food at the Phoenicia Food Pantry to support the community and the summer recreation program.
- Location- For many years the summer recreation program has been located at Belleayre Beach, but we may be looking to move this to other locations. Supervisor Mansfield suggested the following:
 - Glenbrook park- new playground will be great for the kids, baseball field, basketball hoop, pavilion, new bathrooms, and storage for equipment.
 - Pine Hill Community Center
 - Catskill Recreation Center- Arkville- Has a swimming pool.

Rock Cut Park:

- Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) - Autumn, Gina, Sam, and Kevin will attend a meeting held by AWSMP on April 2nd. We hope to discuss ideas and any restrictions we may have. We may meet in March to have a one-on-one discussion where we can focus solely on this parcel.
 - Name change – Rock Cut Preserve/Mount Tremper Preserve etc.
 - Property line clarification.

Parish Field:

- Mini-Golf- We really need to discuss how we are going to make this better for the upcoming spring/summer/fall seasons. Ideas for storage next winter.
- Easter Egg Hunt- Saturday April 4th at 10:30am. The event is rain or shine. Hosted by MF Whitney Hose Co 1.

Glenbrook Park:

- Signage- Autumn and Sam met with Kurt and Autumn provided photos with QR codes as well as historical panel information. Autumn and Sam will be meeting with Kurt in person to discuss any changes we feel need to be made in real time, so we do not have to meet more than once to finalize these signs. See attached drafts.
- Playground Landscaping- Karine came up with new plans for the playgrounds' landscaping because of the cost of the original tree designs, and because of our January meeting discussion about using more shrubs and grasses that could be less expensive. Karine put together a list of plants, and we hope we can get many of them donated, or again, at a more reasonable price. See attached list.
- Dog Park- A sign and lock are attached to the gate, and a post was put out on social media that the dog park will be closed until the snow melts.

Big Indian Park:

- As most of you know, the parcel of land that BIP sits on is DOT owned. There was a good amount of documentation provided by Mary Lou Stapleton and Bill Andrews from the 70's and 80s including the following, regarding the town's lease of the property-
 - NYS Department of State Filing Receipt- In 1982 Martin Ruben filed to incorporate this location as Big Indian Park, INC.
 - Certificate of Incorporation is included and notes Trustees on page two (2) as Laura Aley, June LaMarca and Eleanor Eignor.
 - There is a memorial plaque in the gazebo for June LaMarca as the spearhead to the committee creating a recreational use for this parcel,

and it was suggested by Big Indian residents that we acknowledge Laura and Eleanor.

- Letter from DOT dated 10/25/79 to the Town of Shandaken Supervisor with a proposed air rights permit for the use of the parcel as a recreation area.
- Real Estate Division Permit for Use of State-Owner Property where the Town of Shandaken was listed as a “Tenant” of the property, which rent to be charged set at \$1.00 but was waived per annum. This was followed by a Permission Is Herby Granted letter stating four (4) special provisions, one of which was “Permittee agrees no development of the leased area shall take place within 50 feet of the edge of the pavement of route 28. This agreement was accepted on 11/14/1979.
- Calendar of Events – (Year not noted.) These may be some good ideas for future events.
 - *Easter Egg Hunt*- This even is also held at Parish Field, coordinated by MF Whitney Hose Co 1, and do not think we should compete with that, unless it’s done on a different date.
 - *Children’s Art Show*- Held on a Sunday in early June- Ages 5-18yrs old. This may be something we could coordinate with OCS (this might be the event that works for summer rec donations mentioned above)
 - *BIP Anniversary and Miss Shandaken Contest*- July 4th- Food/refreshments and square dance. Depending on when the Phoenicia parade and bazaar take place, this could be fun in July.
 - *Pet Show*- early August- 2 Prize categories
 - *Shandaken Family Picnic*- Sunday in Mid-September
 - *Halloween Party*- October 31st at 1pm. We did the Parade and trunk-or-treat in Parish Hall last year, and do not want to compete.

Smith Park:

- Skate Park- Kerry- Not in attendance.
- Neighboring property fence- The neighbors have not been approached yet about moving the fence onto their own property. Babs will let me know when this conversation has taken place.
- Waterline bank cleanup- This could be a good project in the spring when snow is gone for a Love Your Parks Day.

Motion by Autumn to adjourn the meeting

Second by Varga

All in favor and meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 27th, 2026 at 5:30pm at Town Hall