

**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

Town of Shandaken Parks & Recreation Simple Social Media Posting Outline (Draft for Discussion)

Purpose

Provide consistent, clear communication about Parks & Recreation activities while keeping posting manageable and sustainable.

Estimated posting frequency: **2–4 posts per month**

Content Categories

1. Major Events by Park

Posts will be created for significant park-based events and seasonal programming.

Typically:

- One announcement post
- One reminder post (if appropriate)

Glenbrook Park

- Phoenicia Library Balkan Festival (September)

Big Indian Park

- Summer Concert Series (throughout the summer)

Smith Park

- Pine Hill Community Center (PHCC) Summer Camp
- Skate Park Events / Fundraisers

Parish Field

- 4th of July Post Parade Bazaar
- Mini Golf Re-Opening (Memorial Day timeframe)
- Fallnicia / Trunk or Treat (October)
- Turkey Trot – November 28, 2026

Simpson Mini Park

- Rotary Duck Race (Last Sunday in July or 1st Sunday in August)

2. Volunteer Days

As park managers confirm volunteer days:

- One post per volunteer event
- Optional thank-you or recap post if photos are available

3. Important Park Information (Occasional Posts)

Periodic reminders such as:

- Carry In / Carry Out
- Dawn to Dusk hours
- Permit requirements for park use

- Basic hiking safety reminders (as seasonally appropriate)

These would be posted as needed throughout the year.

4. National & Outdoor Recognition Days (Optional Add-Ins)

When appropriate, we may acknowledge:

- National Park Week / Volunteer Week (April 18–26, 2026)
- Earth Day (April 22, 2026)
- Arbor Day (April 24, 2026)
- I Love My Parks Day (May 2, 2026)
- Kids to Parks Day (May 16, 2026)
- National Trails Day (June 6, 2026)
- Parks & Recreation Month (July)
- National Take a Hike Day (November 17, 2026)

These provide simple opportunities for seasonal engagement without requiring large-scale promotion.

Scheduling Approach

- Posts can be planned at the beginning of each month
- Content can be scheduled in advance using Meta
- Adjustments can be made for urgent updates or weather-related changes

This approach keeps communication consistent while remaining realistic and manageable.

PLANT LIST

QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	Specification
	TREES		
1	<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Cully' HERITAGE	Cully heritage River Birch	Multi stems - 12' H
3	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	Forest Pansy Eastern Redbud	8'
3	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringe Tree	6'
4	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	6'
6	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Burkii'	Burkii Juniper	6'
3	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> 'Jim Wilson'	Sweet Bay Magnolia	6'
	MOONGLOW		
4	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 'Haymared'	Red Rage Black Gum	8'
3	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	8'
5	<i>Pinus strobus fastigiata</i>	Columnar White Pine	8'
32			
	SHRUBS		
3	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	3 gal
1	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	4' Tall
9	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Summer Sparkler'	Summersweet	3 gal
14	<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Allemans'	Red Twig Dogwood	3 gal
3	<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Dark Mystery'	Rose Mallow Dark Mystery	3 gal
1	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Rose Mallow	3 gal
17	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St John's Wort	3 gal
4	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	3 gal
4	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Grey Owl'	Grew Owl Juniper	3 gal
7	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Summer Wine'	Summer Wine ninebark	3 gal
4	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba rhododendron	4' H
1	<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Winged Summac	4' H
3	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	3 gal
9	<i>Viburnum nudum var. cassinoides</i>	Northern Wild Raisin	3 gal
3	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw viburnum	4' H
83			

	WINE		
2	<i>Wisteria macrostachya</i> 'Blue Moon'		
	GRASSES		
5	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'Dancing Wind'	Dancing Wind Big bluestem	plug
9	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'Red October'	Red October Big bluestem	plug
7	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hairgrass	plug
11	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Pink Love Grass	plug
16	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenondoah'	Red Switchgrass	plug
48			
	PERENNIALS		
9	<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>	Yellow Giant Hyssop	plug
5	<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i>	Blue Star	plug
2	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo	plug
7	<i>Heuchera villosa</i> var <i>atropurpurea</i>	Hairy Alim Root (red leaved)	plug
21	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blueflag Iris	1 gal
5	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> 'Queen Victoria'	Cardinal Flower Queen Victoria	plug
1	<i>Monarda didyma</i> 'Jacob Cline'	Monarda Jacob Cline	plug
17	<i>Penstemon</i> 'Blackbeard'	Beardtongue Blackbeard	plug
7	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Mountain Mint	plug
5	<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster	plug
79			
1,500sf	Mix Seed Native Plants Pollinator for Erosion/Steep slope Sun		
350sf	Mix Seed Native Plants Pollinator for Sun		
1600sf	Mix Seed Native Plants Pollinator for part Shade		

TOWN OF SHANDAKEN PARKS and RECREATION

Glenbrook Park
YOU ARE HERE

Smith Park
RT 28 - PINE HILL

Big Indian Park
RT 28 - BIG INDIAN

Simpson Mini Park
RT 214 & MAIN ST. - PHOENICIA

Phoenicia Park/Parish Field
AVA MARIA DRIVE - PHOENICIA

Rock Cut Preserve
859 WITTENBERG RD. MTTREPPER

Park Hours: Dawn to Dusk | CARRY IN - CARRY OUT | There are no trash receptacles. Please do not litter our mountains!

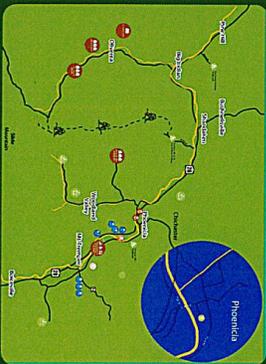
RECREATION LINKS



FOR PARK RESERVATIONS CALL:
Town Clerk's Office 845-688-5004



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



This project has been funded in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Adirondack Park Community Shelter Grants Program through the New York State Environmental Conservation Fund (ECF).



Catskill Visitors Center Trail Finder

An ever-growing searchable database of all the publicly accessible trails in the Catskills, from easy strolls to challenging mountain climbs.



Fire Tower Challenge

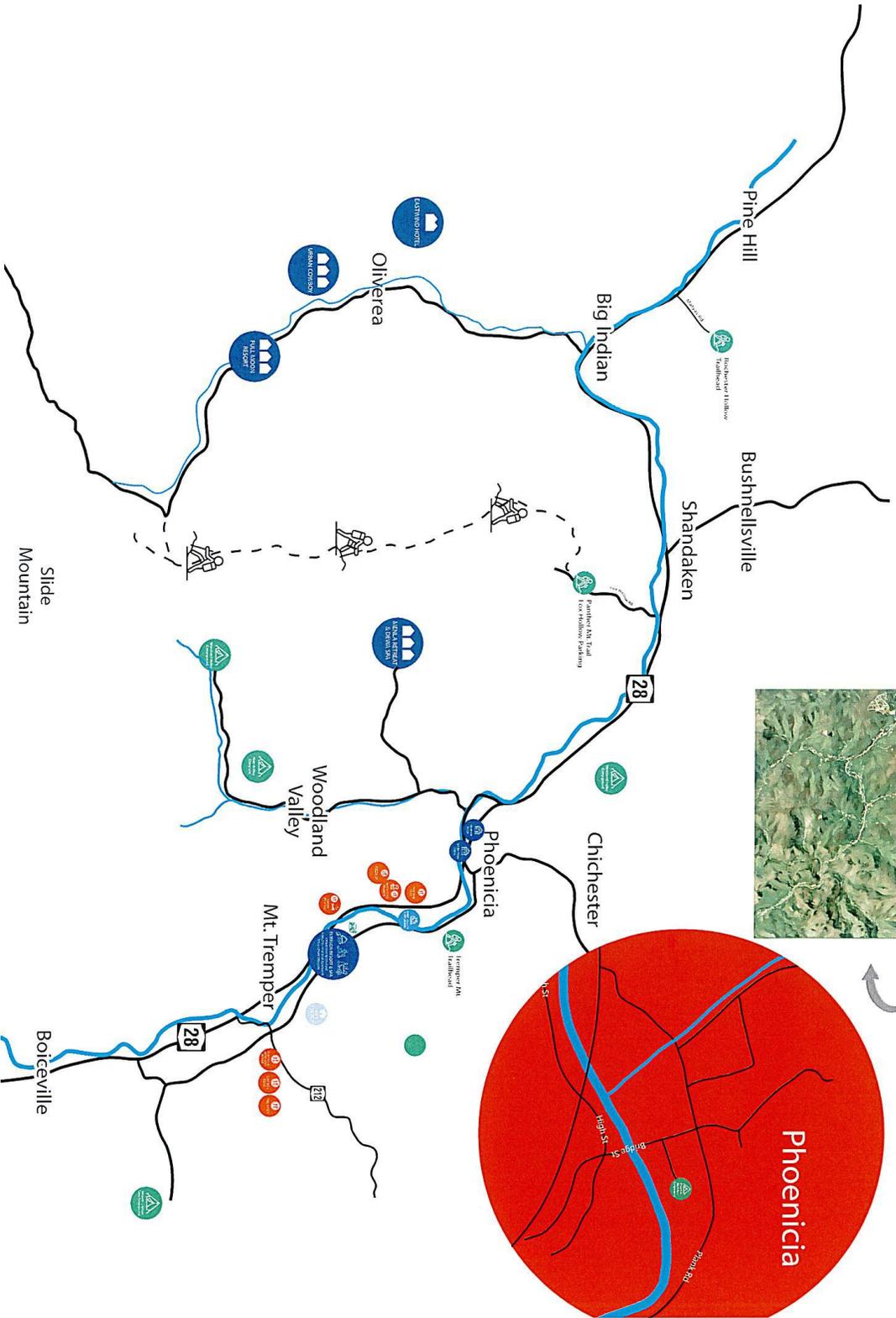
The Catskills Fire Tower Challenge encourages experienced hikers to visit several of the region's remaining fire towers located on Balsam Lake Mountain (Hardenburgh), Hunter Mountain (Hunter), Overlook Mountain (Woodstock), Red Hill Mountain (Denning), and Tremper Mountain (Shandaken), Upper Esopus Fire Tower at the Catskills Visitor Center, and the newest towers added in 2026, Mount Utsayantha (Stamford), and Bramley Mountain (Delhi)



IOWN OF SHANDAKEN

INTERPRETIVE MAP LAYOUT-IN DEVELOPMENT

MAP TO HAVE SUBTLE WATERCOLOR BACKGROUND TO HIGHLIGHT TOPOGRAPHY



Shandaken CAC Presents

Help Shandaken Become a BearWise™ Community

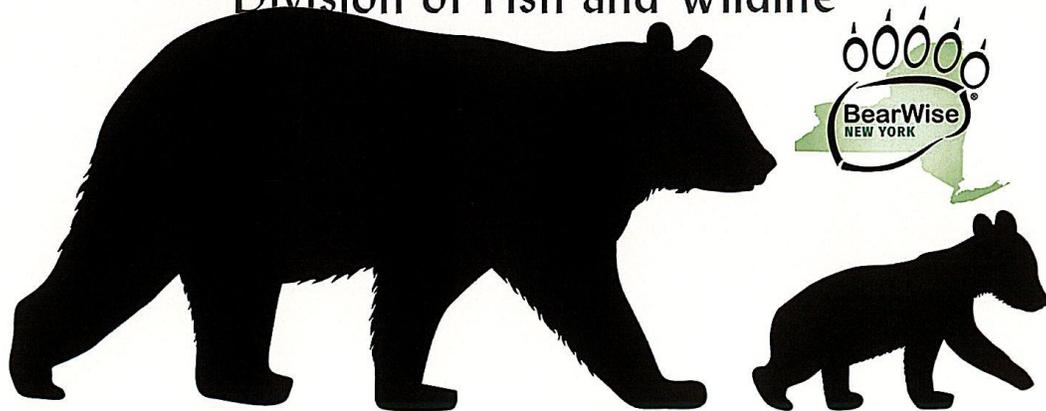
*Learn how to live responsibly with black bears
at home, business and when recreating outdoors*

Monday, March 16, 2026

Shandaken Town Hall

6:30 pm

Speaker: John Milo, DEC Wildlife Biologist,
Division of Fish and Wildlife



BIG INDIAN VALLEY PARK

Calendar of Events

Shandaken

<p>APRIL 18 - SAT - 1:00pm EASTER EGG HUNT BUNNY PRIZES BIG INDIAN PARK</p>	<p>MAY 2 - SAT - 1:00pm MEMORIAL TREE DEDICATION AT BIG INDIAN PARK</p>	<p>MAY 23 - SAT - 10:00pm BAKE SALE FLEA MARKET AT JOAN'S LITTLE SHOPPE BIG INDIAN</p>
<p>JUNE 7th SUNDAY 1:00pm to 4:00pm CHILDREN'S ART SHOW - AGE - 5 - 18yrs BIG INDIAN PARK</p>	<p>JUNE 20th + 21st SAT AND SUNDAY RUMMAGE SALE ALEY'S GENERAL STORE BIG INDIAN</p>	<p>JULY - 4th SAT ALL DAY BIG INDIAN PARK ANNIVERSARY MISS SHANDAKEN CONTEST - FOOD SQUARE DANCE REFRESHMENT</p>
<p>AUG 2 - SAT - 1:00pm PET SHOW PRIZES - 2 CATEGORIES JUNIOR - AGE TO 16yrs SENIOR - AGE ADULTS BIG INDIAN PARK</p>	<p>SEPT 13 - SUNDAY SHANDAKEN FAMILY PICNIC ALL DAY PLEASE COME!!!</p>	<p>OCT 31 - SAT - 1:00pm HALLOWEEN PARTY BIG INDIAN PARK</p>