

**Parks & Recreation Committee  
March Meeting  
03/27/2026 @ 5:30pm at Town Hall**

**Attendance:**

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair  
Autumn Brookmire- Committee Vice Chair  
Nick Torres- Smith Park Manager  
Conor Malarkey- Big Indian Park Manager  
Christina Varga- Marketing & PR/Social Media Manager

**Not Present:**

Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to Town Board  
Kayla Sharon- Glenbrook Park Manager  
Kerry Henderson- Skate Park Manager  
River Houska- Dog Park Manager

**Guests:**

Catherine del Tufo  
Tania Barricklo- Potential Parish Field Manager

**Meeting called to order at 5:34pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance** Yes

**February Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Motion by** Christina

**Second by** Autumn

**All in favor** Y

**Social media:** Christina Varga has been posting on a consistent basis, and we appreciate her dedication to maintaining a social media presence for P&R. Anything related to our parks specifically or to outdoor recreation in our area should be shared with Christina [phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com](mailto:phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com) with a subject line "Parks & Recreation Post" Please remember to like both the Facebook and Instagram pages (look for logo below) and share on your own pages!



**Summer Rec Program:** Rec director, Manny Jean-Pierre, attended our February meeting and we discussed many concerns with the program. You can reference out prior meeting minutes for those specifically. We left the conversation in the hands of Supervisor Mansfield. Below are some of the details of a conversation that was had between Manny, Supervisor Mansfield, and Board Member Kevin Van Blarcum.

- Shandaken parks will be used for at least two planned activities-
  - Suggested specific collaborations with Phoenicia and Morton/Pine Hill libraries, Pine Hill Community Center, and AWSMP for programing.
- No activities are to be scheduled that are more than an hour away-
  - It is important that Shandaken's Summer Rec program offer safe activities that also build youth pride in *our* area.
  - Spending local taxpayer money on bussing kids to far-away places is expensive and in no way benefits the local economy.
  - The charter buses used for transport are far more expensive than the regular school buses, but the regular school buses are too uncomfortable for long trips.
  - Catskill Mountain Shakespear reached out to the Town to host a day or half day of activities in Hunter. Their stage will be set for their summer performance, and they are ready for some exciting programming on their outdoor stage.
    - Visit Hunters splash pad on the way back to Shandaken.
  - Additional Suggestions-
    - Glen Kreisberg- Geologist provides great programming.
    - Ashokan Center
    - Hanford Mills Museum- Meredith NY
- Shandaken Summer Rec staff will NOT manage food security for the Summer Rec families and children-
  - Instead, snacks, breakfast food, extra lunches will be provided via the Town's food pantry, and we will use Summer Rec communications as vehicles to invite families in need to pick up groceries of their choice on specified days. Most families found the empty-calorie junk food and sub-par products provided were not what they needed, were more burdensome than helpful, and several expressed a wasteful use of tax dollars.

**Rock Cut:** Max Kelly was willing to have smaller conversation with Autumn, Gina, Kevin and Sam but it never panned out. Sam forwarded Max the list of action items and ideas that

Gina came up with for this location and will hopefully have feedback for Sam at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> AWSMP meeting so we can start moving forward with this park/preserve.

### **Parish Field:**

- Manager- Bex officially stepped down as manager of this park. She is still willing to pick up garbage and dog bags because of her own personal love for this park and how often she uses it. We are hopeful that Tania Barricklo will take over as manager.
  - Tania has questions about activities:
    - What group size requires a permit or if permit is required for free events?
    - Would the town be willing to help with insurance for the free events?
    - Tania would like to create a walking path around the perimeter of parish field and is reaching out to Father Keily at the church for permission. This will help the Good Company Club attendees, as well as educational for children, and enjoyable for all ages!
      - She would need 46 cubic yards of stone dust- Sam will connect her with Falke Quarry- George Becker.
- Highway Assistance-
  - Phoenicia Farmers Market would like to ask that the Ava Maria entry road be repaired as well as mowing the field before the market opens for the season on May 17th. The grass was high in May last year which created a mess with garbage, ticks and dog scat.
  - Autumn has asked for assistance moving the extra cedar logs over to Glenbrook for use in the new playground. Steve from Highway said when the ground is not so soft they would do it, but we would like to get it on the schedule for May if possible.
- Supervisor Mansfield would like P&R to write a letter to the Saint Francis de Sales parish and Father Kiley about the importance of Parish Field to the parks and the many programs we have there. We can use ChatGPT to help compose it, but we should compile a list of all events and reasons why this park is integral to the vitality of the town as a whole and Phoenicia specifically.
- Mini Golf-
  - Kim Houska had concerns about holding MG users' IDs until equipment was returned. Can we discuss the checkout process for this? The committee still thought leaving ID if they are comfortable or a refundable deposit is the best way to do this. \$25 deposit.

- Kim also created a fun gnome out of twigs as part of the course and is curious if it held up over the winter, and if we would like her to make a new one- Committee agreed and said the current gnome is still standing.
- Kim also said there are a couple of extra peace poles that could be installed in or around the MG course- Committee said yes.
- We need someone to check out the course and see what repairs or upgrades can be done before opening (tentatively Memorial Day) May 23<sup>rd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ask Dylan Callahan if he has ideas and ways to execute making the course better.
  - New sign needed.
  - Sponsors for 2026?
- Phoenicia Business Association is planning a Memorial Day sidewalk sale/block party. This includes businesses off main street. They will set up in the middle of town on Declan's property.

### **Glenbrook Park:**

- Entrance wall paint washed away over the winter and needs to be repainted. We may need to get a different type of paint for weather sustainability over the course of the year.
- Playground-
  - Autumn working with Kompan on the final scope of the project and are anticipating a start date of last week in May or first week in June 2026.
  - Projects Autumn will be looking for volunteers to complete are:
    - Spreading mulch/EWF.
    - Building pergolas.
    - Planting trees/shrubs/perennials etc.
    - Assembling mud kitchen area
  - Fallen log climber was felled on Wednesday 03/25/26 and debarked by Gary Mead and Scott Soderback who will be sending a bill for their services. \$500 for Gary and free for Scott.
  - Name for the playground- Glenbrook Natural Playground.
  - Working with Kurt Boyer to finalize the pavilion interpretive signage by the end of April, as well as a quote for playground signage.
    - Playground signage would include a core communication board which helps children with disabilities request certain activities, or to relay how they are feeling (tired, keep playing, bored etc)
  - Playground trees/shrubs-
    - Hopefully these will be covered by remaining grant funds from DEC.
    - Perennials plants will hopefully be fundraised through Phoenicia Farmers Market in conjunction with Barkaboom Native Plant Nursery out of Margaretville. They sell plants at the market and Sophie Frant

- proposed we do a campaign with them for people to “buy a plant for themselves and one for the park”
- Autumn and Sam are working with Ulster Savings Bank to see if they will donate the seeds needed for the remaining plantings for the playground.
  - Hudson Valley Seed Co is donating last years seeds- Tania
  - Create an event for donating plants in the fall.
- Highway requests-
    - Dog park sign needs to be removed from the playground area and reinstalled in the dog park area- is this possible for them and can we get it on the schedule for May?
    - Concrete pad under picnic table- can they break this up and leave the pieces for us for steppingstones/to recycle?
    - ADA parking spot- what is possible and can we coordinate to get it on the summer schedule?
  - Jeff Collins Stone Supply-
    - In 2024/2025 we paid Jeff Collins \$9500 for stone. Declan delivered some stones to us, but we never got a breakdown of the bill. We need to follow up and figure out what was spent and how much we have left to spend. We will have a need for sand, bluestone, and topsoil. We need to know if he provides all these things.
    - Sponsored memorial plaques for pets on the boulders.
  - Glenbrook Playground Bench Campaign-
    - Autumn working with Gary Mead to design and build functional wood art benches for the playground. He made one for Marilyn Manning that was purchased as a memorial bench. Two more benches were made and delivered to Glenbrook on 03/25/2026, with space carved on the back rest for 4”x2” brass memorial plaques.
    - Autumn is working with Phoenicia Arts Center Ltd to fiscally sponsor a memorial bench campaign to pay for 5 benches.
    - If you know anyone who might be interested in a memorial bench, please be in touch.
  - Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health Annual Giving- Autumn put together a list of park wishes including a rain garden bridge and rubber swing mats, totaling \$2,218.63. Let Autumn know if you have any other wishes.

**Big Indian Park:**

- ADA Swing and hardware request from HVFFYT totaling \$1057.06
- 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 4<sup>th</sup>- 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***- Conor is interested in putting this together this summer!
  - *Halloween Party*- October 31<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. We did the Parade and trunk-or-treat in Parish Hall last year, and do not want to compete.

**Smith Park:**

- Neighbor Fence- Babs is having Don Brewer submit the land survey to Ulster County records and will review the survey once its on record. Nick should reach out to Town Supervisor and the town with other firehouse volunteers to communicate directly what the concern with the fence is. Concerns for liability which should be addressed by Town Board.
- Modular Pump Track USA- reached out to Autumn regarding our plans to potentially put a pump track in Smith Park in the future. Autumn got quotes from them and specs to have on hand in the event we can put a pump track here in the future.
- New basketball rim requested by a local who plays there often and is seeing more people playing. The rim closer to Route 28 is what is being requested. Looks like this

can be ordered online for roughly \$300. Anthem-sports.com or other websites.  
Requested through wish list for HVFYH.

- Fire Access to water through the park. Nick is researching the deed book records for right-of-way.
- Nick will be dormant for a while due to new work project- Maybe Rob Stanley could fill in temporarily? We can still rely on communications from Nick about projects that might need his expertise. He will likely not be available for any future meetings.

**Old business:** None

**New Business:**

- Shandaken Eagle Day- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – more information to come.
- Phoenicia Festival of the Arts- Varga- August 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – Dog parade on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**April Meeting Date:** Doodle Poll to decide what date and time works for everyone. Autumn and Sam will work on this.

**Motion to adjourn-** Varga

**Second by-** Autumn

**All in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:16pm**