

**Parks & Recreation Committee
July Meeting
07/31/2026 @ 5:30pm at Town Hall**

Attendance:

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair
Autumn Brookmire- Committee Co-Chair
Conor Malarkey- Big Indian Park Manager
Gina Krause- Rock Cut Preserve Manager

Not Present:

Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to the Town Board
Kayla Sharon- Glenbrook Park Manager
Tania Barricklo- Parish Field Manager
Kerry Henderson- Skate Park Manager

Guests:

Doug Peltzman- Potential new Skate Park Manager
Carolle Huber- Designer for Rock Cut Preserve/ Parish Field
Robert Stanley- Potential new Smith Park Manager

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance - Yes

April Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion by Autumn

Second by Conor

All in favor Yes

Social Media:

- May and June Posts-
 - Glenbrook Park playground progress
 - Call for volunteers at Glenbrook Park
 - Pine Hill Pride- Activities at Smith Park
 - National Trails Day
 - Dog Park access updates
 - Donation of \$18,000 from the Shandaken Reformed Church of Mt Tremper
we need to send a thank you
 - Big Indian Park volunteers
 - Shandaken Summer Concert Series- In Big Indian
 - Glenbrook interpretive sign installation
- Send information and photos/flyers for social media posts, including details of any volunteer opportunities to Varga- phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com with a

subject line “P&R Social Media Post.” This includes public events that take place at any of the parks.

Smith Park:

- Skate Park-
 - Welcome Doug- With 33 years of skateboarding under his belt and being on the entire journey for the current skate park, we think Doug would be a great fit to take over for Kerry.
 - Goals for the Skate Park- Modest goal of just a smoother/paved surface, a seating area/benches, multipurpose pavement is ideal (concrete and asphalt) and assembly of new ramps but should only happen after new paving. Can we coordinate with highway for next year when they pave Pine Hill?
 - A motion was made by Autumn to replace Kerry with Doug, seconded by Conor and agreed upon by all members.
- Basketball rims and nets still need to be ordered- Rob mentioned that these have tried to be fixed in the past but that the posts need to be replaced first. Chain nets are ideal for weather resistance.

Big Indian Park:

- Shandaken Summer Concert Series-
 - August 9th and 23rd
 - September 13th and 27th
 - October 4th rain date or extra day if weather permits.
 - Event is still looking for sponsors and donations.
- Volunteer Day- July 2nd
 - Thank you to Ted Norde who brought dump truck loads of mulch to the playground the day before our volunteer day, which was a time saver on one of the hottest days of the summer.
 - Autumn, Sam, Conor, and Ted laid filter fabric under the swing sets, spread mulch under all equipment, and installed the ADA swing.

Glenbrook Park:

- Pavilion-
 - Concerns with mitigating pigeons under the pavilion. They leave a mess on tables and the floor of the pavilion. Suggestion to install chicken wire above the lights but under the rafters so they cannot get in or hang decoy owls or hawks. We need to pressure wash the pavilion prior to an event there.
 - There is a wooden picnic table that could be removed due to warping.

- There are items that need to be brought to the dump sitting behind the pavilion- old bench, cinder blocks and Neil Grant Memorial Pavilion sign.
- Bathrooms-
 - Sam installed partial privacy film on the windows. This should be sufficient for the time being.
 - Door closures are still not working- Ted attempted to move them from the outside of the door to the inside so they are pushing, not pulling the door shut, but was not successful. We may need to find heavier closures.
 - Old bathroom on the hill should be clearly marked that it is not longer in use as it is unsafe.
 - New bathroom lock codes should be posted somewhere easily noticeable for anyone at the park. If there is concern with vandalism we should install trail cams.
 - Coordinate a closet cleanup day in October or November with the assistance of Gisi Vella who is good at organizing. This will be a good general storage area for some of the parks once cleared up.
- Balkan Fest- September 19th at 3pm- make sure we don't need to pressure wash again before that date.
- Natural Playground-
 - Autumn coordinated several volunteer days to put together pergolas and complete other projects to move the playground to completion. Thank you to everyone who helped!
 - We are hoping to have an opening date in mid-August after the new fencing is installed. ~August 10th and takes 3-5 days for installation.
 - We need another August volunteer day.
 - There will be a volunteer planting day in either September or October.

Parish Field:

- Shandaken Eagle Day- See attached forms and flyer. Saturday, August 22nd. Looking for food and for profit/non-profit vendors for this event. Parish Field event will start around 12:30pm following the parade and Eagle ceremony. Everyone is welcome to join the parade. Please spread the word and have interested party's complete forms.
- Volunteer Day-
 - Tania is looking to coordinate a volunteer day to help get rid of weeds and poison ivy/oak around the playground. We need new mulch spread as well and possibly use filter fabric underneath the mulch.

- Composting dog waste bins- Rob said there were issues in the past with this idea because they were used as trash bins, not just for dog waste.

Rock Cut Preserve:

- Gina, Sam, Carolle, Kevin and Aaron Bennett walked the property on June 1st. so Gina and Carol knew exact boundary lines between the DOT owned parcel and the DEP fishing access property. Aaron had great feedback for us, and we appreciated him taking the time to meet with us.
- Kevin hopes DOT or highway would bring in a brush hog for the first major mowing.
- There were a lot of good ideas for signage, walking paths, murals under the bridge to prevent graffiti, natural benches made from locus trees, bat boxes, bird houses etc. These are all appropriate for this property because it is in a floodplain.
- Carolle and Gina have a plan to submit to DOT for approved use of the parcel as a Shandaken Park. We will submit the plan to the Town Board for approval and then forward it to DOT. 10 years plan.
- Doug suggested talking to Yuki at Trout Unlimited for signage and historic information.

Old/New Business: None

Suggested dates for August meeting:

- August 28th @ 5:30pm- Glenbrook if weather permits-Town Hall if not.

Motion to adjourn by Autumn

Second by Conor

Meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm