

Richmond Recreation Committee
May 7th, 2024

Members in Attendance: Sheri Lynn, Mark Fausel, Kate Kreider

Meeting started at 7:05 PM

Non-agenda Items: Mark asked about the plan moving forward now that the committee will have too few members to continue at this time. Sheri stated that she will share important documents with Mark and Duncan related to the work that the committee has done.

7:10 PM: Approval of April 2nd Minutes: Mark motions to approve, Sheri seconds. No discussion. All in favor, minutes approved unanimously.

7:11 PM: Recruitment efforts for Huntington, Richmond, and Bolton: Sheri hasn't heard from Jack in Bolton, so we assume that no one from Bolton showed interest in joining the committee. Sheri and Kate posted on FPF in Huntington and Richmond, and as far as we know we didn't get any interest. We didn't hear anything from Duncan regarding possible new members. Sheri reached out to the Recreation committee in Huntington as well to see if any of those members would be interested but did not get any interest. Huntington Rec is doing quite a bit of community programming, so maybe those members are too busy to take on anything additional. Sheri will let the Huntington town manager know that there is an open position on our committee and maybe he can post it on the Huntington town website.

7:20 PM: Playground Inspection: Sheri reached out to Josh and Duncan about having another playground inspection done. Duncan reported that a new slide for the small (toddler) structure was installed. Duncan emailed a copy and posted it to the website of the recent May 1, 2024, playground inspection [Richmond Town Report](#) and that the previously identified issues remain unchanged at this time.

7:24 PM: Town Recreation Position Discussion and Job Description: Mark shared his thoughts regarding a potential town recreation position. The person would take over Josh's current workload in park management. They would also manage Browns Court with the additional facilities proposed to be put there. The person would do a lot of coordination between different groups, would manage the recreation website page, and would support the work of the Recreation Committee. The hope that this could be a paid part-time position. The person would also host and/or run community events. They would have control of and manage funds/budgets for recreation related costs. The person would be responsible for assessing the parks and equipment regularly to identify any needs and/or repairs. They would coordinate volunteer help and volunteer workdays. Sheri recommended not using Recreation Director as the job title, and she recommended the title of Recreation Coordinator. Coordination and communication between groups that are involved in different forms of recreation is key. Mark stated that he will write up a job description and send it to Josh and also include Lisa. Mark stated that he has not had an opportunity to meet with Josh yet, and at this point it makes more sense to wait and see

how things shape up regarding the 3 Parks Committee and future recreation plans. Mark will also talk about this proposed Recreation Coordinator position with the 3 Parks Committee.

7:44 PM: April 15th Selectboard Meeting: Sheri gave a brief update. The Selectboard voted to take \$100,000 in ARPA funds that was set aside if needed (if we don't get the VOREC grant, which we didn't) for the new playground and earmark it to 3 Parks Committee to use. The funds don't need to be used specifically for a playground. The 3 Parks Committee can decide how this additional \$100,000 will be used.

7:46 PM: Collaboration with 3 Parks Committee: Mark went to the most recent 3 Parks Committee meeting last week. They are collecting and compiling data and plans for Browns Court, but they don't want to go to the selectboard to present until after the summit regarding Volunteers Green happens. They are moving ahead with some maintenance now, but they want to wait and see what the costs may be for Volunteers Green. They don't want to commit to anything yet because they have limited funds. During the meeting they worked on their presentation for the summit meeting on May 13th. The flood hazard overlay professionals and someone from the EPA are coming to talk about the zoning regulations and hopefully we will get some clarity on the zoning/flood regulations at Volunteers Green. The meeting will be focused on figuring out what we can do at Volunteers Green, not focused on public engagement at this point. The 3 Parks Committee is planning on doing public engagement after getting more clarity and information. The details of public engagement are to be determined. Sheri asked if the community engagement will happen before or after they present to the Selectboard, which they have to do by October. Mark believes that they plan to have community engagement prior to the presentation to the Selectboard.

8:05 PM: Review of our Work Plan: Reviewed and discussed the committee's current work plan.

Programming and Events: We have begun to explore whether or not we should be more involved in community recreation such as with the youth baseball and soccer programs. This focus will remain. If there is a recreation coordinator in the future, then that person could support this goal/focus.

Volunteers Green: This committee has done a lot of work related to Volunteers Green and this will continue to be a priority. The other recreation areas (Round Church, Browns Court) which may have new facilities/equipment soon should also be a priority for this committee.

Funding and Grant Writing: This topic depends on future committee membership. Future members could work with other recreation groups to try to submit another VOREC grant that encompasses more than just the playground, something with a broader application. The new Rec committee members would coordinate with other committees like the 3 Parks and the Trails committee that have shown interest in the VOREC grant program.

Outreach and Education: Discussed our web page and collecting comments from the website. We haven't been getting any comments from the website, uncertain if people are aware of our webpage and our committee and what we do. More work could be done to get people engaged and educate people about this committee.

Recruitment of Volunteers and Committee Members: This is an ongoing focus.

Collaboration with Other Town Committees with Recreation Priorities: This is a newer goal/focus.

Sheri stated that she will edit the work plan and it can be posted with the committee minutes and on the website. Sheri will also include the work plan in the documents that she will share with Duncan and Mark to use for future Recreation Committee work.

8:17 PM Meeting ended unanimously.