

**Volunteers Green, Browns Court Park, Round Church Green
3 Parks Improvement Committee (ARPA Funds)**

Minutes from meeting held on July 25, 2024 approved 8/20

Members Attending: Denise Barnard, Kendra Ziskie, Tess Storrs, Megan Andrews, Jeanne Agner

Members Absent: Mary Lefebvre, Fran Thomas

Guests in person: None

Attending Virtually: None

Public comment: None

Minutes Approved from last meeting on 6/20/24

Next scheduled meetings - Tuesday, August 20

Agenda:

Round Church Green update

The table and benches for The Round Church Green have been ordered. Cement platforms- town sidewalk cement work is not happening due to flood repair work, therefore Pete and crew will not be preparing and pouring the bases. Josh A is contacting Matt G who gave us the original quote.

Current benches have been scrubbed and/or all will be scrubbed by tomorrow. Waiting for a three day window of good weather to restore the wood with specific lpe hardwood oil.

Browns Court Park update

Josh has the quote from Justin Mansfield for the table, benches, and bike rack and is working on that order.

Note: Josh has indicated that our committee's work with regards to The Old Round Church and Brown's Court was finished once the Selectboard approved the improvements. Josh is now ordering and getting RFPs as needed. He has our contact information if he has questions regarding specific items.

Update from last planning meeting regarding Volunteers Green - Jeanne attended this meeting and reported

The planning commission met on July 10, hours before the flash flooding. They were discussing the task given to them by the Selectboard to look at the playground. Virginia Clark stated that the issue to look at is to A. move the playground or B. Leave it where it is

The playground could stay where it is if rebuilt on the same footprint. However, does it make sense financially to continue to repair the playground after each flood.

According to Virginia, the town can relocate/rebuild a recreational structure from one point to another within a floodplain as long as it does not create a negative impact. Structures can be repaired or replaced as long as it does not increase hazards in the floodplain in any way. There can be no new structures, no additional structures. The playground can be improved upon (rebuilt) ONLY if it is similar in size to the current playground. Tyler Machia did say that a fence would be approved.

With regards to the bathrooms, if a bathroom were to be built near the playground, the bathrooms by the ballfields would have to be made that much smaller. There is no allowance for a new structure.

Would most likely need a hydrological study to prove that it would not affect anything else. Any change to the zoning regs by the planning commission would need to be warned as well as go through the DRB

Gary Bressor asked about the bandshell. Virginia stated that they were not tasked with looking at the bandshell. Bob Heiser questioned other structures that had been proposed. Virginia repeated that there could be no new structures.

Update on Volunteers Green as a result of the flooding.

The entire park is closed at this time. The community has been asked to stay off of the fields, do not walk dogs, etc. due to the contamination. The town has issued a RFP for repairs needed for fields, fences, debris removal, playground repairs, parking lot and road repairs.

For us to research- In the RFP for repairs for VG, bathroom repairs were not listed. Are they not going to repair the bathrooms or is that another company? They used a cleaning company last time. The bathrooms have not yet been open since the last flood. Porta Potties were placed by the fields. Would it make more sense to have porta potties down by the ball fields? Those could be moved if there was a flood forecast. Is it irresponsible to keep repairing these bathrooms? Some feedback from baseball folks is that they would like to keep the concession stand attached to the bathrooms.

Other Volunteer Green Related Items

This is basically our first meeting to talk about Volunteers Green since the summit.

Discussion re ADA guidelines

Denise questioned if ADA requirements would supersede flood zone regulations. For example, don't the bathrooms have to meet ADA guidelines. Or if the bandshell needs a ramp to be accessible can that be denied because of flood zone regulations regarding She will look into that.

Bandshell

Before the December flood, the selectboard approved money to hire a structural engineer to look at repairs needed to make the bandshell structurally sound, to replace the floor and to make the bandshell ADA accessible. After the December flooding, the 3 Parks Committee wanted to wait until after the Future of Volunteer's Green Summit to know what might or might not be repaired or replaced. The structural engineer was to evaluate what it would take to

Redo and or replacing the failed truss components.

Remove existing slab on grade.

Replace the cement floor with a wooden floor.

Address accessibility concerns

We had a lengthy discussion about whether or not it is time to hire an engineer to do this. We debated spending money if there is the possibility of moving the playground and then possibly building a new bandshell. We decided that we would need an estimate of what repairs would be needed and the cost of those repairs to compare with the cost of a new pavilion with restrooms in order to have the data to compare and contrast the pros and cons financially. We talked about the need to have some other estimates and some ideas of what we might want to propose with regards for a new bandshell or pavilion with restrooms. Denise will contact John and John for ideas or possible estimates.

Playground

In addition to the update from the planning commission regarding moving the playground we noted that the other option mentioned by Pete G was to keep the playground where it is but build it on a cement slab. Denise will ask Bob Marquis for his thoughts regarding this option as he attended the Volunteers Green summit. (Denise will also ask Bob about the cement floor for the bandshell) Perhaps Bob would attend our meeting and educate all of us.

Jeanne could ask Justin Mansfield for a very rough new sketch of a playground for the upper plateau. She is hesitant to ask him for new drawings when we don't know yet where the playground could be. Maybe we can just use the earlier sketches that he gave us earlier to see how that might fit on the plateau, knowing that this will have to be reworked at some point. She'll check with Justin.

Community Input

We recognize that any decisions for both the playground and the bandshell will require community input. Perhaps we'll need several meetings to gather input and then present a selection of plans to the entire community for discussion. Do we want to at least have Option A and Option B for the playground and Option A and Option B for the bandshell? We should include bathroom options too. We'll focus on this at our next few meetings.

We noted that there seems to be a perception by a few that we have recommended a paved path. We did research cost and feasibility as an accessible path was high on the survey requests. Due to the questions re the impact in a flood plain, we decided at an earlier meeting not to pursue the idea of a path. We also noted that it is very clear that no new structures would be allowed by the planning commission. However, to be clear, we took a vote at this meeting. It was a unanimous decision that we do not recommend a path be built at Volunteers Green.

Other

–Tess brought up that there have been more news stories about the negative impact of pickleball noise in neighborhoods and shared some recent information that she has researched online. She plans to share the information with Josh Arneson. Josh has stated that once the Selectboard approved the suggested improvements at Browns Court, our work as a committee regarding BC was finished. Tess could share her concerns with the selectboard as an individual community member rather than speaking as a 3 parks committee member.

–Jeanne and Fran are working on another update for the Front Porch Forum and Times Ink! They will send the draft to the committee to review before posting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

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