

1 Clarendon Recreation Committee
2 APPROVED Minutes
3 4-25-18

4
5 Present: John McKenna, Tim Mumford, Roger Loomis, Rick Wilbur (Committee members), Sherry
6 Boudreau (Public)

7 John called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

8 **Public Input** – None

9 **Approval of Minutes From 8/23/17** – Matt motioned to approve minutes, Tim seconded. Passed
10 unanimously with no changes. Rick abstained.

11 **Ratification of events From 9/28/17 meeting** – Matt motioned to ratify the events of 9/28/17 meeting,
12 Tim seconded. Members reviewed the minutes, motion passed unanimously. Rick abstained.

13 **Approval of Minutes From 9/28/17** – Matt motioned to approve minutes, Tim seconded. Passed
14 unanimously with no changes. Rick abstained.

15 **Baseball Program**

- 16 • The baseball program has started for the season. T-Ball and mighty mites will be using the 7B and
17 Chippenhook fields this year. Minors, majors and softball teams will be merging with teams in
18 Wallingford due to shortage of players to make full teams for Clarendon.
19 • Jesse and Sarah Williams are running the program this year.
20 • John spoke with Jesse earlier in the year and verified that, as there is no official league, there are no
21 dues or fees to be collected or paid by the town.

22 **Dog Park**

- 23 • The committee discussed the installation of a dog park at northeast corner of the 7B upper ballfield.
24 Based on comments from the public and observations of the new dog park in West Rutland,
25 committee members felt that the addition of a dog park would be well received and get used on a
26 regular basis.
27 • Clarendon resident and president of Parks for Paws, Sherry Boudreau, gave the committee
28 information on their efforts to install and operate dog parks in W. Rutland and at Rutland Regional
29 Medical Center.
30 • Initial cost for the W. Rutland park was about \$8,000 in materials for half of the needed 4' chain link
31 fencing. The other half was already in place as part of a fence along the bike path. Other initial costs
32 included about \$200 for waste disposal center (which she said could be done with less expensive
33 options), benches (unknown cost), and signs (unknown cost). All installation was done by volunteer
34 labor and donated services. The cost of the RRMCM dog park was much higher due to specific needs
35 and requirements imposed on them by RRMCM for the project.
36 • Ongoing costs will include mowing (minimal due to the amount of use the park gets), disposal of
37 trash and dog waste, maintenance of the park features (benches, signs, etc.).
38 • Committee members recommended that Clarendon install a 5' chain link fence as 4' may be
39 inadequate to keep some dog breeds from jumping out of the enclosure.
40 • She told the committee that they have never had any incidents of dogs or people being injured
41 during use of the dog park. She also informed the committee that her discussions with the
42 Manchester dog park operators indicate that they have had similar experiences.

- 43 • Sponsorships and/or advertising banners along the fence line will help defray ongoing costs. Grants
44 may be available from the Pet Safe Barks for Parks program.
45 • Matt agreed to move forward with contacting potential donors, sponsors and grants. Depending on
46 what he finds, the committee may be able to install the park at no/low cost to the taxpayers.

47 **Plans for the Upcoming Season**

- 48 • Adult softball field:
- 49 ○ Rick asked several questions about the new ball field's availability, cost and insurance
50 requirements for the coming season for the adult softball league to use. He indicated that it
51 would be used primarily for overflow and/or rescheduled games for this year but may become a
52 permanent home for the league in future years.
 - 53 ○ Based on the potential usage for this year and in order to raise awareness of the new field
54 among local people, the committee agreed that as long as the league can provide the town with
55 a certificate of liability insurance, there would be no fee for using the field this year. Future fees
56 would be determined and discussed with the league representative at the end of the season.
 - 57 ○ Tim and Roger stated they would get benches installed and the baselines marked out. Rick said
58 he would install bases.
 - 59 ○ Rick did state that based on the source of the soil used to create the new fields, there were
60 some concerns over soil contamination that had yet to be addressed by the select board. They
61 (select board) are investigating and Rick will report to the committee any findings. John
62 suggested contacting the airport and/or Markowski to determine what, if any, testing was done
63 before the project started in the hopes that it would answer the concerns.
 - 64 ○ John agreed to email contact information for the person who used to be in charge of the Long
65 Trail Baseball League (no longer operating) to Rick so he could explore options for insurance.
66 Rick was also going to contact the American Softball Association for information.
- 67 • Discussion about finding a location for a volleyball net. The poles and net already purchased but
68 were never installed. The committee felt that the north side of the new parking area might be a
69 good place but they needed to investigate whether that spot would stay dry enough to work.

70 **Public Input** – Sherry asked about becoming a member of the committee. She needs to contact the
71 select board and request to be appointed to the committee. John to add her email address to the email
72 list for future meetings.

73 **Agenda Building**

- 74 • Approval of minutes from 4/25/18.
- 75 • Progress on new ballfield
- 76 • Revisit multi-year plan

77 Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for **Thursday May 24,**
78 **2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.**

79 Respectfully submitted,
80 John McKenna, Chair