

Stratham Hill Park Association Meeting

March 23, 202

- I. Call to order: At 7PM Greg called the meeting to order
- II. Members in attendance: Dan Crow, Greg Blood, Mel McGrail Cole Emanuel, Seth Hickey, Ken Lungren, Pat Kelley, Allison Knab, Paul Deschaine, Dave Emmanuel, Nate Merrill, Tedd Tramaloni
- III. Consideration of Minutes from previous meeting: Dan made a motion to approve January minutes as written. Paul seconded. Approved 12-0
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Seth reported of the 2 funds for the park. SHP \$86,011.48. SHPA \$147,669.79
- V. Hazardous tree work has not been scheduled or yet. It will be completed before Family Fun Day in June. DPW has been bust at the Circle (Lane Property). Ken till follow up with Britt as to timeline.
- VI. Forming a focus group of community member's input as to the uses of the park is a priority. This will be a charrette group, offering 'a seat at the table' for creative discussions. The town has decided to not move forward with hiring a team from UNH. Seth and the Town Planner will head this new group.
- VII. Allison shared that E-Bikes are scheduled to be discussed at the Selectboard's April meeting. The Board will take the advice and recommendations from the SHPA, Conservation Committee, and property owners. It was agreed the Ken Lungren would not be the one responsible for enforcement.
- VIII. Non-profit renters of the park were discussed. It was shared that some of these renters now might not be the right fit/venue for the park.
 - a. The park already has in place, a 'no commercial activities' within the original deed. Yet there are many vendor booths at SPCA and Food Truck Festival events.
 - b. Last year the SPCA event had between 300-400 people attending, 40-50 vendors, 100 staff members, plus many dogs.
 - c. There are 3 renter categories for the park:
 - Private parties
 - Certified non-profits
 - Town sponsored events
 - d. There needs to be a base cost for each of these categories.
 - e. It was also noted that non-profits do not pay property taxes, and the townspeople all pay for the park thru their property taxes.
 - f. A charrette 'open house' regarding renting of the park may be in order.
- IX. New/Ongoing Business
 - a. Cole spoke of his Eagle Scout bridge being a complete rebuild, rather than an update.

He plans to have it finished by mid April. DPW will dispose of the current bridge, and work with Cole to get the lumber on the site. Cole will discuss with DPW and Selectboard use of Barn to store materials.

- b. Nate Merrill, chair of the Heritage Committee, presented its interest in having a complete inventory of Historical Resources for SHP done. The Select Board has shown support for proceeding. To begin this process is nominating SHP for listing on the NH State Register of Historic Places (and potentially applying to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places). To apply, the town has to inventory the park of all its resources, deeds, buildings, writing, a thorough outline of the importance of the park. The Heritage Commission will use their funds to hire a professional consultant, who is familiar with the application, and the need for wide investigation. Once the application report is filled out, and sent to the state, the state will say yes or no. The recognition of our history as a written recording— there is proof of settling in the park in the 1700's. Buildings in the park older than 50 years would be recognized. This recognition will signify a place of note, with signs. There will be no new restrictions as to what the park can or cannot do. If approved by the NH State Registry, and we apply for, and accepted into the National Registry, there would be protection placed around the park to prevent 'unwelcome' buildings in the surroundings. (Prisons for example) The recognition would also allow for grants and LCHP award advantages.
- c. Dan made a motion to support applying to the State of NH for Historic Recognition. Pat seconded. Before a vote could be asked, a call was made for more information/scrutiny before moving forward. Dan withdrew his motion, and asked for a motion to move ahead with more discussion.
- d. Paul made a motion to move forward with the Heritage Committee, to create an inventory of Stratham Hill Park's history.
Dan seconded. Approved 12-0
- e. Nate will follow up with the Heritage Commission documenting of history, and report back to SHPA. The SHPA, Heritage, and Conservation Committees will meet together after the report is completed.
- f. Cole asked if he could have the 2 poles laying on the park's side of Jack Rabbit Lane that have not been used in years. He was given support by the SHPA to do such.
- g. The Heritage Committee's program on April 10th will cover the history of the Stuart Farm from min-1600's to present at the Firehouse. Stuart Farm has been listed on the State Historic Register.
- h. Seth thanked the SHPA on behalf of the town for all the work in the park. The SHPA greatly appreciated, and have a lot to look forward to.

X. Next Meeting will be May 18th at 5PM at the Ice Barn for a cook-out, meeting to follow.

XI. At 8:25 Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mel McGrail