

**Stratham Hill Park Association Meeting**  
**Sept 29, 2025**

In Attendance: Dan Crow, Greg Blood, Mel McGrail, Cole Emanuel, Seth Hickey, Ken Lundgren, Joe Anderson, John Cushing, Paul Deschaine, Dan Whittier, Bill McCarthy, Pat Kelley

Open meeting by Greg Blood at 6PM

Dan Crow reviewed Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes.

John Cushing made a motion to accept minutes as read. Mel seconded. Approved

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Eco counters – tracking of traffic #'s in park. It was felt they are not needed at this time
- Skating rink barn updates for Winter.
  - Add 2 heaters over benches
  - Add mats to the other end, and to the front
  - Nets on sides so pucks don't go over
  - Ice resurfaced more frequently
  - Zamboni
  - Bigger boards at the ends so people don't fall and get hurt
  - 2 hockey nets
  - Taller walls at seating because of flying pucks
  - Lost and found bin
  - Sign-up sheet to help maintain
  - Spicket to flood the ice at the end of the day
  - Couple of plastic milk crates for new skaters to push around
  - Bucket of pucks to use
  - Ideas for after ice:
    - Corn hole – rain days
    - Floor/street hockey
  - Sponsorship of boards was discussed and decided to keep advertising in-house.
  - Consideration of Live Cams is not possible due to lack of bandwidth in the park. Looking are commercial support in the future will be considered. There are currently no issues needing cameras.
- Mel garden updates
- Cole bridge replacement
- Greg – top of the hill cutting. At this time, it was decided to forgo the Forestry Plan, for the View Shed, and to let things sit as they currently are. It is neat and clean as is, and will be re-evaluated next Spring. Dan Crow suggested to plant apple trees, or the like, to

enhance the hill top. Pat and Dan will spearhead info gathering and will be on future agendas.

- Dan also gave a brief history of the park and gave Mel copies of historical documents to keep on file

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Seth reviewed ongoing 10 year budget plans, and is the liaison for Selectboard and Budget Committee. There was discussion of the budget plan needing to be for Infrastructure, not Maintenance. There needs to be a change in the structure of finances for the park. Plans need to be in place to maintain our buildings and land, not patching roofs and bathrooms, before they become hazards, this includes tree trimming before large branches fall. This committee must advocate for the park to assure it will be available for future generations. We will be meeting on Thursday October 9 to organize presentation to the Budget Advisory Board. Ken will bring photos of current 'must be fixed' conditions for public safety.

The immediate priority for 2026 are plans to permanently move the Stratham Rec Dept Summer Camps from SMS to the park. There is a lot of work to prepare the 4H barns and bathrooms to accommodate hundreds of children.

Seth also went over the UNH study, and interns he's been working with to make sure Stratham Hill Park remains "the best of the best," as the case study referred Stratham Hill Park as. The working association Seth is seeking with UNH is fostering a relationship to ensure funds are directed in the best way. To address the infrastructure of the park trails, especially regarding the use of E-Bikes, which can damage trails. Pat made a motion to go with NH Fish & Game rules and regulations regarding parameters. Dan seconded. Cole suggested using a type of Transfer station sticker for E-Bikes that are allowed into the park.

The conditions of the Scale House and Bennett roofs need addressing.

Discussions in regards to the Noyes stage will be ongoing.

Mel will contact the Heritage Committee in regards to having the Fire Tower deemed a Historic Structure (only the tower, not the entire park) The structural integrity is concerning, and was scheduled years ago for an overhaul.

Greg made a motion for Dan Crow to become the Vice President and Mel McGrail become secretary of the Stratham Hill Park Association. (A change of positions) Seth seconded. Passed

Next meeting will be Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 6PM

Dan made a motion to adjourn.

Cole seconded

Adjourned 7:55PM

Respectfully Submitted

Mel McGrail