

**Approved as amended Minutes
Waterbury Recreation Committee Meeting 6/9/2021
Anderson Fields Picnic Shelter**

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Because this meeting will be held in an outdoor environment the meeting will not be available for public attendance via online connection

Roll Call:

Committee Members: Paul Lawson, Jane Brown, Meg Baldor, Frank Spaulding, Phoebe Pelkey, Bill Minter

Present: Paul Lawson, Jane Brown, Meg Baldor, Frank Spaulding, Phoebe Pelkey
Absent: Bill Minter

Town Employees – Officers:

Present: Nick Nadeau

Guests: None

1. Review Agenda –
2. Adopt Meeting Agenda: Passed
3. Adopt Meeting Minutes of 5/12/2021: Passed
4. Public Comments – The committee will limit public comments to 3 minutes per person or depending on number of individuals who choose to speak no more than 10 minutes aggregate, divided evenly depending on number of individuals.
 - a. Alternative to speaking – The public may submit written comments which will be accepted up to the close of meeting for inclusion in the minutes (in accordance with town guidance for language and content)
5. Report from the recreation Director
 - ~pool has been painted and patched for the season
 - ~deck will be pressured washed next week
6. Recent improvements and additional Vision for Anderson Field(s) and area
 - ~new pavement at Anderson complete- 1 basketball hoop paid for by the town, another donated the \$1100 by a community member
 - ~Nick met with a community member about a basketball court over part of the outdoor ice rink. Rec committee agrees to move forward with this plan
 - ~Nick will meet with Steve Lopspietch for a site visit to work on planning out the court. Paul and Nick will explore sub surfaces.
 - ~Rec committee members can meet with select board to discuss if needed
7. Incident reporting system will go live on the town website. This is for non

emergent events.

8. Skate Park – Rec committee agrees that further discussion needs to be done about placement.
Perhaps meet with EFUD members to discuss our concerns

Ask Skate committee to come to rec meeting to discuss our concerns

9. Disc Golf

a. Revisit the large list from this winter – Frank will bring copies

i. Check off any accomplishments

b. Jane Brown report on walk through on Monday

c. Next steps

10. Adjourn

The amended minutes include attached email from Jane Brown which was shared prior to the June 6 meeting and intended to be attached per discussion at 7/14/21 meeting.



Frank Spaulding <frank802wat@gmail.com>

Fwd: Summary -agreements w/disc golfers presented at the 6/15 Rec. Committee meeting

1 message

Jane Brown <janebrown@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 2:29 PM

To: Frank Spaulding <Frank802wat@gmail.com>, Phoebe Pelkey <phoebep2@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

fyi - below is my summary as presented to the W. Rec. Committee meeting for the record / from the June 2021 Rec. Committee meeting

Thanks, Jane

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jane Brown <janebrown@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 9:13 AM

Subject: Summary -agreements w/disc golfers presented at the 6/15 Rec. Committee meeting

To: Jane Brown <janebrown@gmail.com>

I have hosted a series of meetings with the disc golfers in April and May. A site walk occurred on June 7. We have reached consensus on some items.

1. Removing many benches that were acting as congregation spots for drinking alcohol. Remove all current benches from the natural area to alleviate congregation/drinking at T-pads. Park users not playing disc golf often unwelcome at these sites. Relocate plastic bench from T-pad 1, and relocate 'memorial benches' from Tpad 4 outside of the natural area..perhaps near a kiosk or playground. As of today, a number of benches are still scattered throughout the woods,. The identified 'memorial benches' have not been relocated appropriately outside of the natural area. We need to give guidance on new locations .

2. Trash barrels that were in the wooded areas have been removed and the 'new carry in and carry out ' directive seems to be working. There was one sign posted.

3. Port a lets were delivered to Hope Davey multi use area by the 2 parking lots and the skate park. Hopefully this will alleviate the public urinating and **defecation** that had become a problem

4. Silencers for baskets: Three were added by the disc golfers **and** were adapted from woven fire hose. These seem to reduce noise by about 50 % (**reported by ?**) especially at **Hole 18** that is often used for multiple practice throws. This innovation using local material **can** be used at other baskets to reduce noise.

5. Reduce width of mowing at fairways in open areas throughout.

6. Restore a vegetative buffer next to the Thatcher Brook.

7. Create a future kiosk and new signage for the park and for disc golf. Current map is outdated but we need more planning and management before this is done

8. **Relocate** the white locker and donation box **currently at Tpad 1** to near a kiosk

9. Dogs need to be on leashes as per town rules

10. Restoration of a walking path that is clear to walkers and park visitors. This may be a few trails rather than one central one.

The site walk on June 7 was helpful in discussing and clarifying some simple methods that can be used in wooded areas to control foot traffic which has resulted in soil compaction damaged and destroyed understory vegetation.

Promoting **regrowth of the** understory revegetation- For example: Using fallen tree trunks to emphasize and delineate paths is a simple and cheap method to control foot traffic. Adding wood chips in paths in key areas will highlight the path location more clearly and will help to mitigate soil compaction. The idea **is** to make it easier to walk where we want people to go and more difficult for people to walk other places such as non- play areas in the wooded understory especially on sections between each " hole" or the white t - box and on some steep slopes.

Mowing- Reducing the height of the mowers from 1" to 3" and the limits of mowing of grass from the width of previous years has begun. Everyone acknowledges that the grass mowing had increased too much-in previous years. Prior to the ' sap bucket' event last weekend mowing limits were reduced by the volunteers based on vim conversations in May . We discussed that once a year the grassy areas can be trimmed/ bush-whacked in meadow: grassy settings to keep woody vegetation from growing. The exception would be parallel to the Thatcher Brook to allow the floodplain vegetation

to grow up with more native shrubs and trees to restore the vegetative buffer. Incision in the stream bank is severe at one point next to the Hole 9 on the bank. Thus has resulted in one large tree to fall across the stream.

Steps and fencing.

There are a few more difficult and costly changes to be considered such as requiring rebuilding of steep steps to a higher standard with larger lumber and more porous crushed stone "treads" between hole 8 and 9 near the brook, and adding a sturdy fence to prevent walking down the steep slope at the t pad fir Hole 8. These need to be looked at for design and implementation to a higher standard to avoid any liability to the town.

Boardwalks are beneficial in wet areas- They also need to be built with durable materials and to a standard for a public park such as pressure treated wood.

MOU / There is still no organized group and **nor is there an agreement with any group.** The town needs to consider how to manage volunteers and also to consider the benefits of designing and build improvements for stairs and fencing off steep slopes to a standard that is suitable to a public facility and park and putting these out to bid.

Management is needed. The town may benefit from seeking grant funding for physical and capital improvements.

Legacy trees- there are a handful of huge, old maple trees in the disc golf area. One in particular has a large cavity. The canopy vigor varies from tree to tree but there is a lot of soil compaction from foot traffic. A certified arborist should look at the trees to decide if the one with the cavity should be removed as a potential hazard and if there could be some mitigation to reduce soil compaction etc., to extend the life of the trees.

New vegetation- As a part of the management plan, identify locations for new trees and shrubs such as buffers near #13 for a house at the Knolls, at Thatcher Brook, along the drainage way at #1.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Waterbury Community Works Together: Because this is a shared use, town owned park, collaborative work to the park will be organized within the larger town community instead of long-standing reliance on disc golf volunteers. To accomplish and complete the removal and relocation of specified benches, and application of silencers on the next set of baskets (or all baskets), and removal or (reported vandalized locker), Rec Committee will take the lead to organize and accomplish these items.

2. Liability to the town is a large and unresolved issue. Disc golfers have long used private equipment on town land including vehicles, lawn tractors, weed wackers, chain saws, among others. Permission, scheduling, communication to public of maintenance schedule, insurance requirements are all unresolved.

3. Unsafe built structures need resolution. Unsafe pathways down steep inclines, faulty walkways, and unsafe stairs are among the issues. Areas that are unsafe need to be identified immediately, and the public cautioned appropriately, and unsafe structures removed/roped off. On June 7 during the site walk, a participant in the site walk fell off the boardwalk due to a faulty board and twisted an ankle.

4. Funding - Actively seek funding for help with design and management reports and future actions such as grant funding -- create a sub committee to research possibilities for the town as a town asset.

Thanks, Jane