

**TOWN OF STOWE
RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024**

The Stowe Parks and Recreation Committee Board met Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Stowe Arena starting at 5:00 pm.

Members present: Lyn Goldsmith, Bill Scudder, Matt Frazee, Ryan Thibault, Deb Drinkwater.

5:10 pm called to order by Ryan Thibault. Agenda Approved. July meeting minutes approved.

1) Bridge Between Mayo A/Rec Path:

Bridge #1 damaged - reset and repaired as of 9/10

Bridge #2 washed out - replaced with squash culvert in late August

Bridge #4 washed out - The “floating bridge” was washed out during the flooding. The bridge crossed a stream and is located within flood plain, so new designs would require a permit. DNR will want to know if there is an alternative, so a new location above the stream has been selected as suitable to avoid wetland impact. Work can be done this Fall in house at no cost, they have a culvert and the gravel cost is negligible.

MOTION: Recommend to Selectboard to replace floating bridge with a gravel land bridge over a culvert which crosses a drainage swale.

- Action step: Matt to notify the committee when he can place this the Selectboard’s upcoming meeting agenda to change the floating bridge to a culvert land bridge concept. Members are encouraged to attend or zoom in.

2) Wetland delineation for Mayo Fields J and K:

Matt Frazee has engaged Arrowwood Environmental to do a new wetland delineation study, proposed for this fall. Arrowwood conducted a prior wetland study in 2008 for the entire Mayo Farm Property. Studies are valid for 5 years. Goal of this new wetland delineation study would be to narrow scope fields J and K to reduce cost and narrow focus to the 16 acres designated for primary recreational use.

The cost of a limited study is \$3500 and will be funded out of the Parks recreation budget at no additional impact to the Town budget. The cost to study the entire Mayo Farm property would be \$25K, with a 1-2 year time frame to start. The narrow study can start this fall and is much less costly, so this approach is recommended by the Recreation Committee. The purpose of the Study will be to find out whether it is possible to develop fields on J and K.

State of Town Recreational Fields:

- Moscow Fields are in a flood plain and wash out repeatedly, repair work might qualify for FEMA funding, but the Volleyball courts are no longer usable and the League that plays there has given up on the location. The Town has also decided not to invest in this location.
- Fields ABC at Mayo are in flood plain and are not reliable for field usage. Primary usage is for community events.
- Field L is known to have clay soil and it also not reliable for recreational activities
- Memorial Park field contain class II wetlands require a wetland impact fees of up to \$500K to make the fields viable for the purpose of ball/playing fields
- Fields J and K represent the last best chance for the Town to use land it owns to invest in viable recreational, ball/playing fields. The purpose of the Study would be to help ensure that the Town investment is worthwhile. If J and K are found to be viable, then they provide a good location for sustainable athletic facilities in a location designated for primary recreational use.

Discussion of collaboration between Recreation and Conservation regarding Mayo Farm Management issues to understand the current conditions and what renewal means. MF to work with Sarah McShane at Conservation to identify issues which fall under Mayo Farm Management Plan and which fall under Deed restriction/easement conditions of use.

MOTION: MF to proceed with J&K Study.

- ACTION: Matt Frazee will update the committee on the results of the Fall Study and an approach to the Selectboard will be determined accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) The new bridge location near Mayo Farm Road needs to be flushed with gravel, or a step/ramp should be incorporated to address how steep it is. MF to investigate.
- 2) Invasive Burdock on the Quiet Path requires a strategy. MF to talk with superintendent and Conservation Commission about options
- 3) Amend the spreading of fertilizer/biosolids on Quiet Path/Cemetery field as it is very aggressive and limits public use. MF to investigate.
- 4) Bridge in Memorial Park needs to be fixed before it snows.

UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS:

- Pickleball courts at Memorial Park revisited. At the 6/5 Meeting we discussed three options, and chose an approach that is now not feasible due to summer flooding. MF now pursuing:
 - exploring Field K as a potential location for new courts. other option would be to recommend selectboard to move forward with conceptual plan for Memorial Park with permitting and design. Fall back options for short-term are to reconstruct the courts in their existing location or have an asphalt overlay.

- Picnic Tables and Benches
 - MF not happy with quality of work from first vendor
 - One table in hand from a vendor he will not be using going forward; will go to Thompson Park
 - New company for future benches/tables with better warranty and design
 - New tables will have metal parts but the recycled plastic options do not have good reviews for durability

6:20 Meeting Adjourned