

Stowe Recreation Commission Meeting

Stowe Arena - Community Room

December 4, 2024

5:00pm

Members Present: Bill Scudder, Forrest Shinnars, Jared Anello, Brett Loomis, Lyn Goldsmith, Deb Drinkwater, Ryan Thibault, Matt Frazee.

Guests: Bob Davison, Ethan Carlson, Nick Donza

Forrest Shinnars calls meeting to order. Agenda Approved. November meeting minutes approved.

Waterbury SkatePark discussion rescheduled due to family emergency.

MOSCOW PLAYGROUND

A group of community members approached Matt Frazee about developing a playground at the Moscow Recreation Field.. Currently the only playground in town is in Memorial Park next to the school and it is closed to the public during school hours. There is a need for a playground in town that is open to the public during school hours.

There are problems with developing a second playground in Memorial Park due to flood plain issue, so Moscow is now being considered as a desirable location.

Ethan Carlson spoke on behalf of the playground, saying that the need is there, the flooding at this location is less severe than other possible locations, has a price tag that is not cost prohibitive, and that there was a well attended community picnic in the area which reflects the big support for the project among residents.

The proposed Moscow Playground would be:

- For kids ages 3-12
- Sited about the existing volleyball courts
- Built with equipment that certified by the manufacturer to withstand flooding up to 4 feet including the playground surfacing
- Elevated a bit above the streambank to reduce flood impact
- Enthusiastically welcomed by Moscow area residents.
- Away from congestion of Town and part of the revitalization of the Moscow area

Cost Estimate is 75K, for the prep work, fencing, play structure+installation, and surface. Likely \$2500 in annual costs to replace mulch and deal with silt from potential summer flooding.

Deb Drinkwater made a motion to support the Moscow Playground. Seconded by Forrest Shinners. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

REC PATH BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES

Discussion of new policy for the Memorial Bench Program. Determined 4 options to change the policy:

- 1) Add funds into operating budget to continue program on an on-going basis
- 2) Make a capital request to replace all the benches and tables all at once
- 3) Add funds into operating budget and create a memorial plaque program to sell plaques and install
- 4) End the program and put up a memorial display at the start of the path for donors that would display names of loved ones for whom all the benches and tables are in honor.

Committee supported option 3 and has directed Matt Frazee to draft a new policy for review at next meeting that will include:

- Locations and number of needed benches and tables
- Purchase price of benches and tables (estimated at \$700 and \$1200 each)
- Purchase price of plaques
- Determine if plaque purchases will be enough to pay for the costs of the program; if not then would need a capital request or see if it fits into expanded operating budget
- Reach out to existing families
- Public posting that Bench/Table program is being abolished and replaced with new program that is more efficient
- Logistics of plaque program including online pay link and installation process

New Tables and Benches will be standardized and made of recycled plastic and stainless steel so there is no rot/minimal upkeep.

PICKLEBALL

Moving forward with replacing the existing courts and installing 8 new pickleball courts, with fencing. Prep work would be done in house, VT Tennis would do installation. Spring timeframe. Uses 175K existing capital budget allocation. Stowe Pickleball representative Bob Davison was in attendance and welcomes this commitment to quality recreational capabilities in Memorial Park.

MEMORIAL PARK PLAN

Selectboard member Nick Donza was in attendance to discuss moving forward on the Memorial Park Plan and encouraged the committee to make a timely recommendation to the Selectboard. Mr. Donza is committed to a long term solution that is much needed to address a variety of concerns about the current state of Memorial Park.

The committee voted to hold a special Rec Committee meeting on December 17, 2024 to identify an action plan.

Rec will discuss options to put the matter in front of Town voters

- Could ask SB to put on the Town Meeting Ballot, deadline would be end of January
- Could initiate local signature petition to get 5% of voters to put Memorial Park on the ballot

Rec will discuss

- Conceptual designs
- Amount needed for the next phase of planning
- Budget impact
- Wetland impact
 - Permitting questions and challenges
- Campaign to educate the public and gauge level of support for a potential 6M bond
- Understand the potential tax impact per capita so as to move on from the rejection of the public school bond
- Determine and draft a letter to the Selectboard with a specific request for support of a Memorial Park Plan

Deb Drinkwater will reach out to various parties who have been involved with Memorial Park planning and bring materials to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2024 AT 5PM