

DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 14, 2021

I. Roll Call

- a. Members in attendance: Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Kim Adams, Simon Pearish, Russ Barrett, Laura Hill-Eubanks (non-voting)
- b. Also attending: Diane McKain

II. Set/Adjust Agenda

- a. Adjustment to agenda
 - i. Added "General discussion about paths"

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. 6/9/2021 Minutes
 - i. No changes, Motioned for approval by Russ, seconded by Kim, Approved 4-0-0

IV. Discussion

a. Plaques

- i. The committee has been working with the NHS class of '57 and others to determine how to use funds that they donated for the improvement of the park. One priority was the display of plaques acknowledging groups that were impacted by the flood that led to the creation of the park and groups that helped create parts of the park.
- ii. Bonnie presented cardboard cutouts that helped the committee visualize the size and location of plaques.
- iii. Kim motioned to approve the purchase of bronze plaques, using the size and font presented by Bonnie (font size will be determined in conjunction with the plaque maker).
Approved 4-0-0

b. Irene Event

- i. Several groups are interested in a Tropical Storm Irene event but the details need to be worked out.
 - 1. Groups interested: This committee, the Northfield Community Development Network, the Labor Day Festival Committee, the Norwich University Office of Communications, the Dog River Conservancy

2. Dates discussed include the August 31 Farmers Market and during the Sept 4, 5, and 6 Labor Day Festival
3. An idea presented was that there could be multiple “satellite events” that all play off of each other.

c. General Path Discussion

- i. Fred Nadon has suggested that a section of the path that is mud should have gravel added. A community member that frequents the park has complained that this section is hazardous to walkers as it becomes slippery when wet. He has volunteered to do it. Bonnie will ask if the town will supply the rock.
- ii. The paths need a more permanent weed control plan. The homemade herbicide has not been effective. Simon discussed the use of glyphosate (Round Up) with Michele Braun of the Friends of the Winooski River. The use of glyphosate is acceptable on the hardpack path since it is not a part of the riparian buffer zone. Bonnie will suggest that the town should go forward with treating the paths with glyphosate with the caveat that we would like to have some oversight about how the spraying is done near the pollinator garden.

d. Member Updates

- i. Bonnie says the Common Connections group has received a grant for more benches and they are interested in placing a bench along the hardpack path that is just north of 347 Water Street.
- ii. Bonnie shared an email from Michele Braun stating that the Friends of the Winooski River would be willing to add details about the knotweed control that would be done if the town enters into a landowner agreement.
- iii. Natane, the new Northfield economic development intern, is interested in developing a path from freightyard way to the rugby bridge. This committee will provide a letter of support for such a path.

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment