

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 8, 2022

I. Roll Call

- a. Meeting began: 6:05pm
- b. In attendance: Kim Adams, Russ Barrett, Bonnie Donahue
- c. Absent: Fred Nadon, Simon Pearish, Laura Hill-Eubanks

II. Set/Adjust Agenda

- a. Added: Mechanical damage to trees
- b. Added: Knotweed treatment results

III. Approval of Minutes (April)

- a. Tabled until June meeting

IV. Discussion

- a. Member updates
 - i. Discussed plans for a path to connect Wall Street to the Rugby fields. Question about whether a bridge from the path to the Dog River Park could ever be constructed, and how much it would cost. There is still money remaining in the Dog River Park Fund. Bonnie will follow up with Nadene to get an update on the proposed path (NCDN intern who applied for the grant).
- b. Maintenance Plan
 - i. Bonnie discussed the plan briefly with the Town Manager (Jeff) and provided an update. Jeff reviewed the document and had a couple edits for the budget. Bonnie explained that the intention of the budget is to show the true cost of maintaining the park and request annual funds to support park maintenance, especially for the hardpack paths that are in rough shape.
- c. Path Maintenance
 - i. Briefly discussed options for the paths. The weeds are quickly encroaching, and vegetation management is no longer a viable option. Question about whether or not the park funds could go toward replacing the paths, and request matching or additional funds from the Town.

d. Small Projects

- i. Tabled until June meeting.

e. Community Additions to the Park

- i. Briefly discussed. Bonnie spoke with Jeff about the role of the Dog River Park Committee (DRPC). The DRPC's role is advisory to the Town. If desired, the DRPC can bring a topic or suggestion to the Town Manager (Jeff) and ask for his direction. Policies are difficult to develop to be fair to all.

f. Mechanical Damage to Trees

- i. Discussed damage to tree trunks (potentially from weed whackers and mowing equipment). Damage to bark at a tree's base can kill the tree. The Conservation Commission is in touch with the Town about the trees planted along Wall Street. Discussed options for prevention, including mulching or tree rings. Approximately (30) trees in the Dog River Park would need mulch (this does not include the trees on the opposite side of the street). Bonnie will touch base with Jeff about the concerns for tree safety, and our options.

g. Knotweed Treatment Results

- i. Group walked through the park and looked at the areas where knotweed was treated by a consultant in 2021. The knotweed is less prevalent where treatment occurred, but the herbicide may have also damaged vegetated areas around the knotweed. In some areas, this includes planted shrubs were injured or killed. Bonnie has written to the Friends of the Winooski to touch base and help determine the cause of the damage and discuss plans for future treatment.

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

- a. None

VI. Adjournment

- a. Adjourned at 6:05pm