

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 13, 2022

I. Roll Call: Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Kim Adams, Simon Pearish, Russ Barrett

II. Set/Adjust Agenda: No changes

III. Approval of Minutes (May & June)

a. Russ moves to approve, Kim seconds 4-0-0

IV. Discussion

a. **Member updates**

b. **Maintenance Plan**

1. Simon suggested that the Maintenance Plan should be moved “up the chain of command” from the Dog River Park Committee to the Conservation Commission to the Select Board to allow all stakeholders opportunities to weigh in on the plan before approving it.

c. **Path Maintenance**

1. Town may be able to invest funds in path maintenance in the near future. Bonnie is meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the most appropriate and high priority actions to take.

2. This committee recommending prioritizing the paths near the pollinator garden and the pavilion. Recommended actions include raking and applying new gravel material. We will also take input from a contractor on best strategies for maintaining paths.

d. Meadow Sign

e. Invasive Species Management

1. Michele Braun stopped by the park to observe the results of previous knotweed management activities conducted by Redstart (maintenance facilitated by VT Fish & Wildlife and the Friends of the Winooski River). Michele will pass on notes to Redstart.
2. Mitigation of invasive species is an ongoing concern.

f. Meadow Mowing

1. This fall the "center" section of the meadow will be mowed late in the season, after Oct 15, to allow bird nesting and seed drop to be completed.

g. Community Additions to the Park

1. Simon suggested an arrangement in which temporary additions to the park require approval from the town manager with a scheduled date of removal. A potential policy that we discussed was that anyone requesting to make permanent additions to the park should meet with the DRPC to ensure that changes to the park fall within the intended purpose of the park and adhere to regulations set by entities that aided in the creation of the park (e.g., FEMA).

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment