

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 10, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - a. Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Russ Barrett, Simon Pearish
- II. Set/Adjust Agenda
 - a. No changes
- III. Approval of Minutes (February)
 - a. Russ motions, Simon seconds, Approved 2-0-1
- IV. Discussion
 - a. Swing
 - i. The town has ordered the new swing to be paid for with donated funds held by the Northfield Historical Society.
 - ii. The town will install the swing when it arrives.
 - b. Spring knotweed cleanup
 - i. This committee will organize a cleanup event when the knotweed that was deposited in the December flood begins to sprout.
 - c. Living willow structure
 - i. Simon has received permission from the town to install a living willow structure to provide shade for one of the benches in the park.
 - ii. Simon will acquire willow cuttings from Russ for the project and install the structure in early May.
 - d. Member updates
 - i. This committee will request mulch for trees in the lawn area of the park. The mulch will provide weed control and a buffer from mowing (mowing near trees damages the roots and will kill the trees over time).

- ii. Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program has funding for buying trees. This committee will assess the loss of trees in the floodplain and request funds for replacements if necessary. The grant is due May 17, 2024.
- iii. VTRANS is doing a scoping study to build in a pedestrian pathway (sidewalk) between the park and downtown. They've proposed a concrete sidewalk either at the street along the road at the edge of the park or following the current gravel path that is closest to the road. This committee supports either option but feels that a sidewalk at the edge of the street is more likely to receive approval from FEMA and more likely to be plowed and accessible in winter months.
- iv. Bonnie will contact Gillespie to get the path resurfacing project started.

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VI. Adjournment