

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE
Minutes of August 14, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - a. Voting Members: Kim Adams, Russ Barrett, Simon Pearish, Fred Nadon, Bonnie Kirn Donahue
 - b. Also in attendance: Lori Loati, Rebecca Pearish, Joe Wantuch, Alanna Stern
- II. Set/Adjust Agenda
 - a. No adjustment
- III. Approval of Minutes (July)
 - a. Kim motions, Russ seconds, 3-0-0
- IV. Public Participation (scheduled)
 - a. Play equipment condition
 - i. Members of the public have suggested that it is time to consider removing the play equipment. The existing play equipment at the Dog River Park has degraded and become unsafe. The teeter totter has a broken handle and the slide is cracked and caving in. Some children have already been injured.
 - ii. The sandbox is too close to the street and poses a risk to the children that are drawn to it.
 - iii. This committee encourages members of the public to brainstorm ideas for future play opportunities at the park. This committee will offer guidance about designs and materials that will be resilient and what would be allowable according to FEMA floodplain regulations.
 - iv. Any future considerations should include opportunities for older kids as well as younger children.
 - v. This committee recommends the removal of the slide structure and taller teeter totter and the relocation of the sandbox away from the road. Motioned by Simon, seconded by Fred. Passes 5-0-0

V. Discussion

a. Swing

- i. The bench swing has arrived and the town will install it. Bonnie will check to confirm that the town has been reimbursed by the Class of '57 fund.

b. Paths

- i. The paths were resurfaced and they look great.
- ii. Need to apply vinegar herbicide treatment in the path area near the pollinator garden.

c. Mulch for trees

- i. Simon will talk to the Town Manager about getting mulch for a work day with Norwich Students.

d. Knotweed

- i. US Fish and Wildlife will apply herbicide this fall.

e. Member updates

- i. Fred has proposed the addition of an accessible picnic table. This could be part of a renovation to create a path to the pavilion and resurfacing inside the pavilion to make it more accessible in general.
- ii. Thursday, Aug 22 at 9am several state officials will attend a tour of the Dog River Park to view it as an example of how to adapt to flooding.

VI. Public Participation (unscheduled)

VII. Adjournment