

Rec Board Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025, 6:30pm

Location: Murray Field

Present: Ed Huang, Leslie Berger, Stephen Drew, Anne Fayen (left at 6:50pm)

Pocket Park Report:

- Anne is finishing up her 4th season as lead gardener and is ready to pass the torch. She is grateful for her time in the garden, basking in the ethereal setting, working with the community, and caring for the land. She will finish the season but does not plan to hold this position next Spring. However, she's willing to work with a new lead gardener to help them acclimate, troubleshooting garden issues like pest control, management, etc. She will happily provide orientation and advice.

- She would like to throw a fundraiser sometime over Indigenous People's Day weekend (Sat 10/11; rain date Sun 10/12) partially as a celebration but also as a fundraiser.

There'll be music, food, and general merriment, with a suggested donation to attend to hopefully help the Pocket Park fund. The board brainstormed ideas on how to make the event a success. Leslie will help with putting info on social media and creating a poster.

- **Recognition of Anne's resignation:** The board thanked Anne profusely for her dedication, labor, and vision, and for selflessly providing a lovely corner of the earth for all to enjoy.

- **New Lead Gardener Search** - Leslie will look back on rec board notes from 2022 when we first sought a gardener to replace Barbara Smith, researching protocols for the procedure to hire a new individual.

Trash Collection Service at Murray & Varney Fields by Nordic Waste: Ed reported that Joshua Dickey from Nordic Waste will submit a bid to the rec board. If the bid is within the already approved amount remaining in the fiscal year, we will go with Nordic. Nordic will likely remove trash biweekly through November. This period will serve as a trial for the coming year. If successful the board will include the estimated trash removal cost in next year's budget.

Red Barn Painting: Stephen planned a community event to paint one side of the Red Barn in August, but needed to reschedule. The new plan is to organize a day for this community paint project. Stephen will purchase the paint, advertise the event on

Listserv/Facebook, and gather as many volunteers as possible with the goal of completing the work in a single day. The proposed paint date is Sat 9/27 with a rain date of Sun 9/28.

Bike/Pedestrian Grant: nothing new since August.

Art Camp report: Leslie reported that Art Camp, held over Aug 11-15, was the busiest year ever. This was its 14th year. Registration was closed early due to overwhelming numbers. 39 campers with varying schedules attended from Strafford & surrounding towns. Seven staff members were hired this summer, most of them original Art Camp campers. It was highly successful.

Meeting minutes from Feb, April, May, July, August 2025 - Leslie added Feb & April minutes to the document. Hilary sent August minutes. Hilary needs to post May and July minutes to the google doc.

Other:

- **Email from Christa Wurm:** Christa suggested that the Rec Board sponsor World Cup viewing parties. This would involve renting Barrett Hall or the Rosa Tyson gym, finding a projector, and potentially purchasing a subscription to ESPN or Fubo or another streaming service for a month or two. Christa is willing to work on this and hopes a rec board member would share the enthusiasm and get on board. Discussion ensued about whether this was something the rec board should be sponsoring and whether it was a cost we could afford. We should research this more, invite Christa to a subsequent rec board meeting, and revisit.

Rec Board Winter Location: Those present felt rec board meetings should be moved indoors starting in October. Leslie will reach out to the Barrett Hall trustees to see if we can use BMH again this winter.

Meeting Schedule: Our schedule seems to be a challenge for some board members. Discussion ensued about moving the day of the week, coming to the conclusion that all days of the week are problematic. Separately, the board often cancels the October

meeting, as it falls on Indigenous People's Day Monday each year. However, Stephen, Ed, and Leslie can all attend, so we plan to hold it (hopefully at Barrett Hall).

Rec Board Mission: Leslie noted that adjacent towns have much more robust rec boards, throwing all sorts of events: skating parties, festivals, end-of-school celebrations, fall fests, etc. The Strafford board doesn't do nearly as much. Ed suggested that we research how other boards operate and compare notes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.