



Jericho Underhill Park District P. O. Box 164 Underhill, VT 05489 802-899-1141

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Jericho Underhill Park District MEETING MINUTES - January 15, 2025

Present: Olivia Strong, David Williamson, Donna Pratt, Paula VanDeventer, Kim Spaulding
Absent: Bruce Blokland

Public Present: Chris Greenwood, Don Tobi, Dan Smith, Jessica Alexander, Wendell Davis

1900: Meeting called to order by Livy Strong

Annual Meeting

Article I Election of a Moderator

Livy nominated David Williamson voted unanimously

Article II Act on Board of Trustees

Motion to Accept by Livy Strong, second by Kim Spaulding. Voted unanimously

Livy Strong presented the actions of the JUPD in 2024:

-Expanded and improved drainage with dry well in parking area, with funds from ARPA funding. Thanks to both towns.

-improved the 1.5 acre pond infrastructure, removed silt blocking water flow.

Settlement pond and fishing pond

- developed policies- dog, financial , vendor

Dog policy developed and improved signage. Met with Animal Control Officers and selectboards from both towns. ACO's will assist with animal control in the park.

- Improved signage, dog, interpretative, general. Added QR code for reporting

- utilize 25,000 dog waste bags a year

-100-400 visitors per day from all surrounding towns.

-school education visits, from Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, Cambridge, Essex, South Burlington. No charge for school sponsored trips

-Athletic field maintenance schedule developed. Fertilization, over seeding, and aeration.

-Trail improvements and wetlands mapping. West Fieldstone loop, , meadow and connector trails improvements. State grant monies utilized.

-Riparian Buffer Zone. Addressing erosion , improvements on trails
-Open Meeting Law Requirements addressed. Now record and Zoom meetings. Visitor counter
- Soccer camp April -October, summer camps from Essex and surrounding towns
-developed CIP: Capital Improvement Plan for guidance over the coming years.
-Volunteer days: helped with honeysuckle / invasive species control. Cub Scouts help with spring clean up. MMU students help with spring tasks: plantings, painting, honeysuckle control.-
-Bridge repair plan . Met with Engineer to address needs.
Many challenges for the future: rising costs, climate change, increasing usage.
Will continue to seek grants, support park stewardship. Plan a 25 year celebration for the park.
Utilize the CIP
Motion to accept the board of trustees Report. #1 Paula, #2 Donna. Passed Unanimously

Article III

Shall the District authorize the Trustees to borrow money for the temporary needs of the District?
#1 Kim #2 Donna. Passed Unanimously

Article IV

Adoption of a budget

Presented by Donna Pratt proposed \$85,962.

10% increase over last year. Park is very busy 100-400 people per day. Hikers, dogs, skier, pavilion, x country races.

Goals: upgrade fieldstone east using grant money, bridge, infrastructure, riparian buffer

Pay pal revenue 2024.. \$4.

Dave Williamson made a motion to accept the proposed budget of \$85,962. #2 Donna. Passed Unanimously.

Article V

Other Business.

None proposed

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting: #1 Kim #2 Paula. Accepted Unanimously.

JUPD Business meeting January 15, 2025

Olivia Strong called to order at 1915

A. Public Comment

1. Don Tobi: Jericho Tree Warden. Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness
Last summer Jericho had a grant to study the EAB. Jericho was able to hire interns to do an inventory of the roadside ash trees. Were able to develop a maintenance plan and a projection of costs for removal. 1,870 ash trees in Jericho roads ROW. When the ash trees die they become brittle and are then a hazard to the public. The interns also inventoried Mobbs and Mills Riverside park. This was subsequently mapped. There are 350 ash trees on or near the trails of Mills Riverside Park. 30 of which are dead. Once they are dead, can no longer be cut with a chainsaw. Becomes a VOSHA issue

Need to develop a plan on how best to approach.

Chainsaw living trees

Feller Buncher: can direct where the tree falls. Do before declared dead.

Tracked and wheeled removal ie: tree service (DJ's)

Cost for town- roadside: \$18.35/inch diameter= \$340,000 estimate for roadside Jericho

Mills: chainsaw could do 90% of trees at about \$100/hour

Feller buncher: \$200/ hour , about 3 days work

Logging, could bring in logging, can get money for the wood.

Considerations: Winter is the best time, when ground is frozen.

Important to do before they die and are brittle (VOSHA)

There are grants. Jericho was deemed ineligible. None of Chittenden county was eligible.

Do plantings with replacement trees when done. Will start a tree nursery.

Forest service has released parasites to control EAB

Don Tobi is willing to mark the ash trees in MRP for \$50./hour. With blue paint. About 1.5 days work.

2. E-bikes : Dan Smith

Review of our e-bike policy: motorized bikes forbidden due to conservation easement

Per the State of Vermont: Class I is a bicycle “is not motorized” Vermont Statute 23, Chapter 001 excludes e-bikes from the definition of motor vehicles. “ Municipalities and local authorities can only prohibit the operation of pedal assist E-bikes following notice and a public hearing. The only exception to this requirement is if the trail system in question is purely natural, i.e. there is no added surfacing or structures”. Many parks in the state have accepted class I e-bikes. Our aging population is enjoying the increased accessibility that e-bikes are affording.

Considerations: more usage

Possible wetlands

Erosion, have found no difference between ebikes and mtb's

3 .other topics: none proposed

B review of Minutes: Paula ? dog day 5/17/2024? Propose to pend minutes until dog day is decided.

Minutes not approved

4.Financial Report: nothing to add

5C Operational activities

Act 171:Vermont Ethics and Conflict of interest Requirements

Code of Ethics need to be posted by 1/1/2025. Training by everyone—45 minutes on the computer

Paula volunteered to be liaison. There is training to be completed

Kim, Paula & Livy will work on putting things in the computer.

5. Park Management

A. Maintenance

People counters: 102/day for December

B. Projects :

EAB see above

25th Anniversary celebration: 8/16 1000-1400 + a rain date

Reflective garden proposed Design to follow from Dave

Estimate from Rob at Creative Gardens \$7,830. Plantings and benches

Dave and Livy will formulate a bid to be put out.

Interpretive signs

Wetland inventory mapping

East fieldstone Loop Trail work/Grant

Do we move forward if we need to have tree work done? Yes, but need \$ for tree work

Have preliminary approval. Need to do permit

Riparian Buffer need plantings and mowing in the spring

New Trail map. Need to locate an artist

Vendor policy need to vote on it.

Donna incorporated to reservation forms. Due date for vote 3/5/2025

Need to put black out date for painting. Dave will check with painter on timing.

Painting price \$2,842.50

Financial policy. CIP in place.

Separate phone number for JUPD available and working (802) 899-1141. Tied to venmo and pay pal.

Need to change signs in park.

Long term plans for bridge: catastrophic insurance, increased rate

Ned end of life plan for bridge

C. Operational activities

Act 171 (see above)

E-bikes (see above)

Dog policy- Wendell: many peoples from Burlington...possible dog tag and certificate

He will attempt to design a tag and possibly sell on website for fund raising.

Resignation of Board member and vacancy.

Chris Greenwood here. Showing interest. Livy stated that he needs to write a letter of interest. Jessica Alexander provided papers for petition signatures.

6. Any Other Business

Athletic Fields: possible increase price for rentals to reflect seeding/ field maintenance/ aeration. Budget went up 3% so possibly should reflect in field rentals.

Emmet Mannings' spring and fall soccer schedule out

Livy, Paula and Donna will take down holiday decorations

Move to adjourn@2115

Meeting Recordings

Use the link below to access meeting recordings.

Note: Recordings are posted once minutes have been approved and are available for 30 days.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VDckTyvioosbWqEacYly9pgrzYdM8mzi>