

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**DOG RIVER PARK COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of July 12, 2023**

- I. Roll Call
  - a. Members in attendance - Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Russ Barrett, Kim Adams, Simon Pearish
  - b. Also in attendance: Cara Gauthier – Go Northfield
- II. Set/Adjust Agenda
  - a. No changes
- III. Approval of Minutes (June)
  - a. Motioned by Russ, Seconded by Simon, approved 4-0-0
- IV. Discussion
  - a. Path updates
    - i. Considering the current state of the park (paths covered in mud due to flooding on July 10<sup>th</sup>) we tabled the current plan to have a contractor resurface a limited portion of the paths. Bonnie will inquire to see if flood recovery funds will be available as the need for path maintenance has increased due to the flooding.
    - ii. A volunteer effort will be used to rehabilitate the paths via raking and reseeding with grass in areas that were not previously covered with a hard gravel surface.
  - b. Maintenance Plan
    - i. Still have not heard from the conservation commission about the document that was sent over.
  - c. Freight Yard Way Trail
    - i. This topic was also tabled due to the unknown state of the trail following the July 10<sup>th</sup> flooding.
  - d. Playground equipment
    - i. The park had an adult sized wooden bench swing previously but the swing broke and was removed. Several people have asked for it to be replaced. Kim found large wooden bench swings that could be purchased to replace the one that was removed. They would be made of cedar and have 3-5 a year warranty. Seeking funds from donations previously received (Class of '57) for this purchase.
    - ii. Simon suggested pursuing a project to create a play space using live willow trees planted in such a way as to create sculptural features, arches, paths, a natural fence, etc...

1. Conversations with state officials about playground equipment, 'natural' playgrounds, etc... indicated that the only thing that would be guaranteed to be approved to be constructed in a floodplain by FEMA is an installation of live plants that are likely to remain intact during a flood.
2. This project would require help from a professional with experience creating such installations.
3. Ideally, the labor for the project would be sourced from volunteers.

e. Member updates

V. Public Participation (unscheduled)

- a. Ms. Gauthier - Go Northfield has received funding for a concert series in Northfield and would like to use Dog River Park as the location.
  - i. Four concerts on the four Tuesdays leading up to Labor Day.
  - ii. This committee is in full support of these events.

VI. Adjournment