

Norwich Recreation Council Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2017

Present: Jill Kearney Niles, Jill Collins, Chris Clapp, Page Tompkins, Gered Dunne, Kristin Fauci-Pontecorvo, Bill Tine, Ryan Gardner, Amy Tuller & Brie Swenson

Meeting was held at various outdoor Norwich Recreation facility locations.

**Norwich Pool Site:** goal was to discuss possible plans for former Norwich pool site on New Boston Road. Town of Norwich will soon be doing work, supported by FEMA funds, to fix up the site.

Jill K N reviewed construction/cleanup plan with the group. Graham Webster /Webster & Donovan Excavating will be doing the work.

Goal is to make this site a nice picnic/recreation family spot. Many people continue to use the Ballard hiking trail originating from this location, also.

Concerns voiced included the steep drop from the river bank, where it was washed out by the flooding. Will there be fencing along the top of the bank?

Several Council members expressed opinions on possible tree limb trimming, especially for new growth, to help reclaim a larger grassy area next to the woods. The swing set, bathhouse, and lifeguard building will all be removed. We discussed ideas for possible things to replace these with, including picnic tables and new grills.

**Huntley Meadow:** We discussed possible ideas for a replacement footbridge from Huntley Meadow to the back of the Legion. Several people have been doing research on this to try to determine what type of bridge would be allowed by the state and be affordable to the town. We looked at several possible locations along the river, with most Council members agreeing that the narrow section of the river, behind the pump track would probably work best.

Jill K N said that 40 yards of sand had been delivered to fix up the baseball diamond. The roof on the pavilion needs replacement. The pavilion was donated about twenty years ago. The cost to replace the roof is \$6,000 in materials alone.

The tennis courts will be resurfaced this summer, and painted. The RVC rents them for summer tennis camps/instruction.

We discussed the goal of several members to add public bathrooms to Huntley Meadow, including possible placement and plumbing, etc.

Gered has applied for a grant to add bicycle trails to the back side of Huntley Meadow for residents.

**Action Item:** Jill K N will ask Andy to please remove the base of a play structure in the playground which is broken.

Jill K N clarified to the group that the Recreation Department pays for materials, fertilizer & seed for our Town recreation facilities. The upkeep, mowing lining and all the labor for this, plus repairs is done by our wonderful Norwich B & G crew.

**Legion / Beaver Meadow Road area:** We walked the land owned by the Town on either side of the Legion, along Blood Brook and looked at possible places for a new footbridge. Everyone concurred that the property on the corner of Huntley Street & Beaver Meadow would be a lovely spot for a picnic table or two. It was felt that having it mowed would be a simple but effective way to dramatically improve how it could be used by residents. Jill K N will communicate with the Conservation Commission for their input as well.

**Barrett 'Playground' pizza/bread oven area:** Better signage is needed to convey the message that users MUST train with someone experienced in using the oven. Smaller pieces of kindling & wood would encourage bringing the oven temperature up slowly and gradually the way it was designed to be used. There was discussion about crochet and bocce and perhaps a weather worthy chest or small shed with a combination lock on it to house them.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 8th at 7pm in Tracy Hall