

MINUTES

Village of Brockport Parks Committee Wednesday, August 12, 2020
7pm – Corbett Park Shelter – 135 Clark Street, Brockport, NY

Mission Statement: *The Parks Committee of the Village of Brockport serves as an advisory committee to the Village Board and works with the Department of Public Works. We help provide well-maintained parks and recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.*

Attendance: (guest, Sandi Henschel, to re-join the committee, approval may come in Oct

Committee members present: Amy Guptill, Joe Blosenhauer, Jennifer Haytock, Linda Ketchum (chair), John LaPierre, CT Oakes, and Losh Spalla

Guests present: Sandi Henschel

Committee members excused: Annie Crane, Hanny Heyen, and Chelsea Wong

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

Meeting Minutes: October 9, 2019 minutes approved by email in November 2019.

Old Business:

Linda Ketchum:

- Age stickers received from Parkitects, placed in Corbett, other parks still need them
- Tables in Corbett Park picnic shelter were repainted, repaired
- Pruning workshop held October 19, 2019 - 10am-noon, Village Court, 49 State St. CT Oakes and Hanny Heyen attended.
- New metal sign wording still needs to be sent to Harry Donahue for ordering; Linda will send it in over the winter.
- NEED HELP? – signs to go below metal signs, updated with cross-streets, same as above
- Port-a-johns not installed this year due to the coronavirus outbreak closing playgrounds (opened again June 12), we had board approval for extra time May-Oct (\$1,998)
- A. Guptill wrote a summary of parks news for the Fall/Winter 2019 Village Newsletter <http://www.brockportny.org/news/newsletters/send/15-newsletters/2176-fall-winter-2019>. The same issue includes an item about the August 2019 Saturday of Service.

Liaisons Reports:

No report from John LaPierre.

Budget Report:

Linda Ketchum: We had \$4600 left from our total reserves; spent some other lines (equipment repairs, gardening, miscellaneous) so \$3200 there unencumbered as well as about \$2000 under other budget lines.

Amy Guptill: We spent a lot of money on the new zipline in Barry, and it has been especially great during the current pandemic. Unlike other parks play equipment, it is easy to wipe down before and after use. My own children have really enjoyed it.

New Business:

Linda Ketchum:

- National Fitness Campaign initiative put on hold due to expense and now coronavirus delays; it may tie in with the NYS loop project that where they are building a pedestrian bridge over the canal at the guard gate located at College Facilities Plant (Commissary Park).
- H. Heyen set a special committee meeting November 12, 2019 to discuss financing Corbett rebuilding, the committee also met December 11 and January 15. (Hand out notes from meetings – also attached). Rebuilding a safe, ADA-compliant path is the first priority. On December 16, Linda and Mayor Blackman attended a Sweden Foundation meeting to ask if they could help with funding Corbett path or equipment (email update from mayor attached)
- No Saturday of Service this year, only on-line volunteer work accepted by the College. This would have been our 10th annual SoS.
- Pollinator gardens were cleaned up/replanted at Harvester Park
- Thank-you card and gift card was sent to Barbara Blosenhauer for being a parks committee member, she really appreciated it!
- Losh and Linda re-upped committee membership, formal approval delayed until Village Board organizational meeting that has been moved from June to October as the pandemic delayed the village election from June to September.
- Bottles hanging from trees on north-side canal path in Harvester removed. Now birdhouses built by members of Christ Community Church have appeared thanks to the Blosenhauers. Joe built the birdhouses and other members of the church painted them.
- Committee members reports on their respective parks...

Linda Ketchum: Hanny Heyen reported from Havenwood that it is time to remove the toy digger because it is rusted and unusable. Two benches at the park need sanding and repainting; the whole park needs weeding and edging.

John LaPierre suggested that the digger issue be reported to DPW under the heading of “safety”.

Linda Ketchum: Sagawa Park is looking good, thanks to the work of the village gardener. She removed the clips from the book-tree project. A memorial rock has been placed near a rosebush. We approved this previously. It was saved from one of the tree-square gardens and installed by the Village gardener.

Linda Ketchum: Remembrance Park has had a new tree planted and looks great.

CT Oakes: On Corbett Park, the issues from prior reports are still there. Remaining dead elms need to come down. The playground is still rough, and the pond has some problems. Haven't seen if the light has been fixed. There was some talk on the Brockport Neighborhood Watch Facebook page about drug paraphernalia in Corbett Park, but with all the time I've spent here, I've only seen it once, and it was down in the wooded area next to the path along with a lot of beer cans.

CT also raised a question about metal detecting and digging in the parks. Linda consulted the village code and it is *not* prohibited. Currently, people using metal detectors are replacing their divots responsibly.

Joe Blosenhauer: Harvester Park is in pretty good shape, but there are some overhanging bushes down from the Welcome Center that should be trimmed back.

Losh Spalla: Barry Park is just weedy and needs more mulch. Everything else is OK.

Jennifer Haytock: Evergreen Park needs weeding and mulch. The play equipment has the same status. The path next to the stairs leading to the canal path used to be a worn dirt path. It was replaced with gravel during the Canal Corp cleanup initiative. The gravel is unstable; it washes down with the rain and feels loose beneath your feet. The Canal Corp should be responsible for making it safer. Either remove gravel or replace with crushed stone instead of loose larger stone.

Amy Guptill: In the South Ave Park, they path needs weeds removed. The rose bushes near the small Thank-You plaque also need to be pruned, but Amy will do that herself.

Linda Ketchum: Monika's park needs weeding under the play equipment.

When Sandi is reappointed to the committee, she will monitor Remembrance Park.

Next Meeting: TBA. The scheduled Sep 9 and Oct 14 meetings will not be held.

Adjourn: CT Oakes moves to adjourn. Joe Blosenhauer seconds. Approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Attachments: mayor's email update on Corbett Park, Subcommittee notes

To: Jack Milner
From: Margaret Blackman
Date: Sat 2/8/2020 3:22 PM

Hi Jack,

Sorry it took a while to get back to you and the Sweden Foundation, but a lot of things have been happening and some not, so I wanted to update you. First of all, we did not receive the CFA grant to upgrade Corbett Park, the primary reason being that the parks and recreation grants are very competitive and Monroe county pulled in some big grants this round—Susan B. Anthony House and George Eastman House in particular. However, the Brockport Loop pedestrian bridge project is underway with an advisory committee of village and college personnel. The \$5 million for the bridge is already committed from NYPA and the Wilson Foundation and we believe that project will help us and the college leverage the other pieces of the Loop including Corbett Park. One proposal we are considering is peeling off a portion of the Corbett Park upgrade to get funded through other sources (particularly the pedestrian ADA compliant stone dust trail) before we attempt the next CFA application for park upgrades. We are still working with the National Fitness Campaign on the fitness court for the park that we discussed at the meeting with the Sweden Foundation but it needs to be timed with other park improvements.

I'd be happy to talk to you about where things stand and what might be the next steps in meeting again with the Sweden Foundation.

Look forward to your feedback.

Best regards,

Margay

Margay Blackman, Mayor
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Corbett Park Subcommittee Agenda: November 2019-March 2020, Village Hall 7pm

Purpose: continue with discussions on priorities and new initiatives

Thank you to Hanny for organizing our first meeting, November 13. Highlights from the meeting:

1. Discussed current upgrades necessary. Everyone agrees that the "Heart Path" is the number one priority. The entire path is not needed. We need to review the layout of the current path.
2. Is widening the walking path possible?
3. Our 5-year plan should be updated.
4. The grant status for Corbett Park 500K Grant: announcement in mid-Dec
5. National Fitness Campaign pre-approved application, 30K grant, for Fitness Court
6. Find out how much MVP Health paid to get their name on the Cobbs Hill Fitness Court
7. Come up with wording to approach possible funders for Fitness Court. Some ideas of who to ask for money: Excellus, Galisano, Sands (Constellation Brands), Wegmans, UofR/Strong West, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Sweden Foundation, other service groups and merchants

December 11 talking points:

1. We learned about the total cost of the Fitness Court from Daniele Lyman-Torres on Dec 9. Could be \$240K: (note: they are planning a 2nd court at Genesee Valley Park)
\$125K for the Court apparatus/floor tiles kit - \$30K grant from NFC = \$95K to fund
+\$40K for the concrete pad – 38'x38'
+\$10K for painting the wall with advertising – or leave blue (NFC color)
+\$50K for construction – if contracted out
***after discussion, we decided NOT to pursue the NFC fitness court
***Hanny presented a Parkitects "FitLot" design and Ben can give us more designs
2. Possible location – in front of Tennis Courts along Clark Street – can't be behind courts because it needs to be 150' away from children's play equipment so they don't think they can play on it. This is problematic because it faces homeowner's properties and may be an eyesore to them.
3. We will not talk to the NFC people until January when we know whether we get the big grant.
4. Meeting with Sweden Foundation on Monday, December 16, at 4pm. Mayor Blackman and Linda to present ways they could help us with funding.
5. Next meeting date: January 15, 2020 at 7pm, Village Hall Conference Room

January 15 talking points:

1. We did not get the NYS grant. NFC Fitness Court is on hold after one more conference call.
2. What improvements can the Village afford? Safety issues are a priority.
3. At the last meeting we discussed whether removing old, rusty grills is a good idea.
4. What do we present to the board in addition to extended Porta-John contracting?
5. Mayor Blackman wants to go to another Sweden Foundation meeting to update them.