

Thurston Park Committee  
Minutes of February 16, 2023

In Attendance: Steve Nelson, Sonia Nelson, Trevy Bumps, Johnna Hatt, Jen Smith

Call to order 6:35 pm

The minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Sonia Nelson and a second by Steven Nelson.

We discussed TIF funding for 2023-2024. There is \$65,000 available in the “Trails” category. Tom Rumpf from the Four Seasons Club and Jen Smith discussed our respective requests and decided the only fair solution was to split the money evenly. Despite that agreement, the TIF Committee decided to grant the China Four Seasons Club \$40,000 and Thurston Park \$25,000. We will need to submit a new application explaining what we will be doing with the \$25,000. The TIF Committee refused to fund a utility vehicle for Thurston Park. The next meeting of the TIF Committee is March 8<sup>th</sup> and our new application is due then. Jen Smith will attend the Select Board meeting when the TIF is discussed and ask them to fund each organization equally.

The FEMA application for monies to cover storm damages is still pending approval. It is not clear when we will hear if we will be getting any money.

We discussed the TIF projects for 2022-2023. We need to get the concrete poured for the building. Jen Smith will discuss this with Town Manager Becky Hapgood about putting it out to bid. We should put a deadline on when this needs to be done by so we can get this done before June 30, 2023, if possible.

We had a discussion regarding funding for the park long term. Jen Smith reviewed some of the early organizational documents from the committee and they felt we needed to focus on grants and donations including possibly a non-profit organization “Friends of Thurston Park”. Based on the attitude at the recent TIF Committee meeting it does not appear that we can rely on funding from them and besides it will end eventually. Grants always have lots of strings attached. Jen Smith is working on a presentation for the Select Board regarding the park and requesting that it be funded regularly in the budget as it is an asset for the town.

We discussed some of the things we would like to develop at the park. These included a dock at the pond and possibly a canoe/kayak rack and camping spaces

or yurts that could be reserved and rented, and further trail development. We also discussed working with the recreation committee to have activities at the park on a regular basis. Finally, we discussed ways of getting more information about the park into the community including using Facebook and other social media pages.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the portable building at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette “Jen” Smith