

Thurston Park Committee
Minutes of November 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm

In Attendance: Steve Nelson, Tim Hatch, Trevy Bumps, Ken Molfetta, Scott Monroe, Jen Smith

The minutes of the September 18th and October 9th meetings were reviewed. Scott Monroe asked that we correct the minutes of September 18th to show that he was present. After noting that change the minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Scott and second by Steve Nelson.

Under new business, we discussed the 2026 China Ice Days. Jen Smith has offered to do the owl prowl again on Friday evening. We do need the weather to cooperate as last year we had to cancel due to high winds. We also discussed other possible activities including an antique snowmobile race through the park. These have become more popular in recent years. We would need to discuss this with the Four Seasons Club and how it would fit in with their activities. Even if it didn't work for that weekend, we could do it on a different weekend. We will need to look into this further, especially with regard to insurance and other issues.

We discussed activities for 2026. The committee felt that we definitely would like to continue the Thurston Park 3-Miler and Fun Run. Scott Monroe suggested that we could do both spring and fall races. We had good feedback from those who attended and increased participation from last year to this year. The committee thought that could be done. We also discussed the Last Man Standing Race and Gravel Ride. These worked quite well and we had good attendance. We decided this is something we would like to continue with these as well.

Steve Nelson reported that the bridge on the Ridge Trail has been completed and the trail should be completed soon, if not already. There is a short section that is very steep and needs a sign warning of the steep grade. While it is meant to be one trail, we discussed whether we should name the two sections differently. After some discussion we thought we would put the information on our Facebook page and ask our followers for input. Scott will do this and report back at our next meeting.

We discussed the possible “all-access trail” we’ve been considering. Jen Smith reported that she has some information on trails recently completed or under construction by other groups. Committee members expressed concern that the trail would not be very long and that the Yorktown Trail is relatively flat. Jen pointed out that the Yorktown Trail is a multiuse wide trail and doesn’t really give the feeling of a trail through the woods like some of our other trails. We bantered this about and finally decided to put the “all-access trail” on hold for now. We will continue to explore this and once we have much more information and some ideas for the location, we will consider it for our TIF application.

As for the TIF for this year, we will work on continuing to make improvements to the existing trails to prevent washouts and erosion. This includes adding culverts to the Yorktown Trail and Trail 1. We also will need to add two more bridges to the Deer Trail as well as some re-surfacing and drainage. Jen will work on the TIF application itself and Steve will get estimates for these projects.

We did discuss the kiosks again and Steve wondered whether the shop class students at Erskine would be interested in building these for us if we supply the materials. Steve will look into this further.

Finally, we discussed the Esker Trail. Some of our on-line reviews comment that this trail dead ends in a gravel pit and then it is not clear where to go. We do need to get the new trail signs as the current ones have become difficult to read and see as they blend into the environment. We discussed relocating the trail, bringing it past the pit and then joining the Rufous Jones Trail. We will work on this revision this winter and spring, weather allowing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the portable building at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette “Jen” Smith