

Recreational Space Committee Meeting Notes

4/23/25

Attendees: Nancy Stowell, Lise Bofinger (Chair), Maddie Bujold, Mary Olson (2nd Chair), and Carla Gauthier (Secretary)

Minutes from 3/26/25 were accepted

Update on the Committee's Work Since the Last Meeting:

Nancy Stowell

- We have not heard back from Maine Tennis and Track. The original quote was \$200K a few years back without visiting the site, but Nancy will check to see if the cost of materials are down if we look at different court solutions.
- Nancy will call Mike Stephenson and see if we can remove the tree between the court and street to move the court further away from the stream. We would plant more trees in its place.
- Possibly looking at creating a French drain, or some closed culvert, between One School Street and existing tennis court to connect the two properties - either by bridge or path.
- MELS Application. Efforts with DEP & Permit by Rule – sent public notices (on site for permit by rule). We will pay the requested \$322 for permit (because we are 30 feet from the brook) and then the DEP has three months to figure out what our approach will be. Hopefully the tennis court is grandfathered.
- Abutter notices will be written and mailed to Chicken Coop, One School Street and the person who owns the old Hathaway Store.

Lise Bofinger

- Lise found a land and water conservation (LWCF) grant from the State of Maine that goes up to \$500K and funds 50% of a project. She started the process of applying for Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project eligibility assessment (PEA) so we can apply for the 2026 grant cycle. There will be either an in person or ZOOM contact in May or June.
- Lise spoke with Robert Jackson (the new road commissioner) on the possibility of he and his team doing the early site work with the selectboards permission. Robert is going to put together an estimated cost for the town to do the preliminary work. The work would

be paid for by the Grant. He is also looking into the possibility of using excess stone the town has left over from the Town road repairs.

- Lise had a ZOOM call with Ron King owner of Natural Playgrounds.
<https://www.naturalplaygrounds.com/>. It is pricey but has lots to offer and will do all the planning needed. Natural Playgrounds also does a tiered, time lapse approach. We will look at other vendors as well, including local talent.
- Lise spoke with Sean Minear about the swale between the tennis court lot and the One School Street lot. Looking at possibilities of bridge or French drain sort of scenario. Boundary lines on lots would have to be confirmed. The committee would like to approach this project in concert with the vision of One School Street.

Next Steps

- Courts are priority, then look at landscaping and park inclusive of One school Street.
- Maddy Bujold mentioned ensuring there is adequate parking. Possibility down the road is to replace the bridge (that used to exist) between the Town Hall and the Tennis Court.
- Next meeting we begin working on communication and fundraising strategy. Input from the Townspeople is important.
- The committee's initial approach to this project is to restore in some capacity the tennis court that was built in 1952 for recreation through grants and fundraising. The long term goal is to make the downtown area more attractive, usable for all townspeople, and bring value to the town's properties and its tax base.
- The committee needs to establish a budget for review by selectboard – Lise Bofinger will be the committee's agent, as a town employee.