

The Playground Committee meeting, July 11th 2024. The meeting started at 6:20pm at the Senior Center, these people were present ,Doreen, Joy, Maureen, Tamerine, Diane, Marie, Judy, Ann Marie,Caroline, Katrina, Sue and Jenny

Judy and Marie reported they had done research on the swingset at the senior center and that it needed concrete work, new seats and gravel. Marie mentioned that she had and found the seats for about \$98. They also examined the bars and found that the ground has to be prepared and then covered with a suitable Playground base. Judy and Marie will look into the cost of new seats, including a baby bucket and share the information at the next meeting.

Ann Marie spoke to Skip and he thinks that concrete would work best on the swingset.

It was brought up that mulch was deposited at the playground, but it was the wrong kind of mulch and was removed this morning by Skip, the playground base needs to meet playground safety guidelines..

Ann Marie mentioned that the mulch that does meet the guidelines we can get for the Senior Center playground would be approximately \$500. This information came from Skip who knows somebody that has the appropriate mulch.

Ann Marie also mentioned that Skip said that the bridge needed to be flipped over. He will take care of that.

Sue mentioned a company out of New York, Bear Playgrounds that offer a different style playground for less money . That info was shared with Caroline so the that advisory group could look into it.

The fundraising advisory group mentions an adult swing would be a nice addition to the Senior Center larea and will look into into raising \$1200 for the swing.

At our last meeting Ann Marie asked each advisory group (fundraising, playground design and senior Center Playground review) to work together in the interest of time and bring results for discussion to the next meeting. Advisory groups are now asked to communicate by email or text or hold meetings at the Senior Center or the Town Hall.

Caroline reported her advisory group needs to know how much money is available to spend. It is very difficult to choose a playground without a budget.. She mentioned the Beckett playground as another good playground to check out.

Caroline and her advisory group are going to put together three different proposals in three different price ranges for the next meeting.

Ann Marie explained how a new grant that Sean has applied for work into our playground fund. Attached is a copy of the info. In short we come up with 30% of the \$80,000 that is available and then we complete the work and are reimbursed for the difference. there are however other stipulation.(see attached). A weed barrier was not part of the write up and needs to be added..

Ann Marie reported that there is no problem with the septic interfering with the area behind Town Hall that might be suitable for the new playground.

Fundraising advisory group also stated that it is very difficult to ask for money when we are not quite sure what the money will be used for. We will wait until we have specifics and a plan in place and then begin to request donations and plan events.

There was still some discussion as to whether the Town Hall is the best place for the playground. No decision was made as to one playground, both playgrounds,

no playground..

Ann Marie spoke to the Police Chief about the location behind the Town Hall and she said that she was not worried about vandalism.

Doreen and Sue both spoke about the money being spent and the difficult time many towns people are having.

At the next select board meeting Ann Marie is going to see if funds from The War Memorial/Playground Fund can be used to buy new mulch for the Senior Center playground and the new swing seats.

Unfortunately, we won't know about the new grant Sean just applied for until September.

Maureen sent Sean a list of other grants that he could apply for that cover the materials and the playground equipment that we are looking into.

Maureen and Katrina both spoke about the necessity of a crosswalk between the church and the town park.. Many of us never noticed it. We will speak to Skip about repainting the lines and installing two crosswalk signs. For safety reasons this needs to be done, The traffic flying through town was mentioned.

Jenny mentioned looking for additional grants that we could go for and will research any that we might be able to personally apply for.

Maureen and Tamerine spoke about an unused parcel behind the Town Hall and will continue to research it to see if that area might be available and any stipulations it might have.

Other items that were discussed, but not really playground related were-

Benches by the gazebo
A town wide trash pick up day
Repairing the porch on the side of the Senior Center

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15
Next meeting is August 1, at 6:00.

Minutes humbly submitted by Sue