

Minutes of the meeting of the Berne Recreation and Parks Advisory Board of 5/27/2021

(a.k.a. "Parks & Recreation Board", or PRB) **PRB recommendations for the Town Board are in BOLD**

- John Zelenak, chair of the PRB, opened the first meeting of the board, and led the pledge of allegiance.
- Present in person in the meeting room at the Berne Senior Center (Studio C) were board members: John Zelenak, Nelson Kent, Susan Hawkes-Teeter, Robin Gifford, Steve Gifford. Present via Zoom were board members David Herman and Dee Woessner.
- All members introduced themselves and gave some background and context.
- There was a request for a Recording Secretary for the Board. No one volunteered. A request for a Vice Chair was answered by Nelson Kent, who was then nominated by John Z., seconded by David H. and accepted unanimously by members present. This is an internal position, not official with the Town.
- Regular meeting time was agreed as 4th Thursday of the month. John will inform clerk re calendar.
- 4th park, Switzkill Natural Area was discussed.
- Sub-Committee designations were discussed. Whether to organize by park or function? Volunteer development, events planning, programming (smaller events), publicity, budget, maintenance (mostly trails).
- Discussion whether to collaborate with the Celebration Committee and Beautification Committee members, possibly as PRB sub-committee members, or to absorb those boards into the PRB. Also, Town Board liaison. Bonnie Conklin is willing (attending this meeting via Zoom). Vote on this was tabled.
- Discussion of Berne Farmers Market... Manager needed, plus volunteers.
- John moved to recommend that **Town advertise for a Market Manager volunteer in the Altamont Enterprise or possibly as a paid position.** Nelson seconded. All were in favor.
- Some suggestions from David H. re Switzkill Farm development: 1. Waterfall access trail. 2. Frisbee golf course. 3. Spaces dedicated to quietness... benches. 4. Reach out to Town citizens for ideas. 5. Re-establish Lodge. 6. Re-location of Long Path.
- Board informally agreed to work on a sample survey with goal of reaching town citizens for input on parks. John Z. volunteered to create that draft.
- Discussion of discontinuation of Switzkill Farm Caretaker position. Safety & value concerns. Motion proposed by John Z. Steve G. seconded. Motion adopted unanimously with Nelson abstaining. Wording of the recommendation: **"Caretaker recommendation: Due to safety concerns and the possibility of vandalism, fire and water damages, and illegal uses, the PRB recommends maintaining a caretaker to ensure the continued value of the SwitzKill Farm property. Since the current arrangement does not cost the taxpayers any money we recommend it continue."**
- John motioned that the meeting be adjourned, David seconded. Meeting adjourned.

- Respectfully submitted by Nelson Kent (acting secretary)