

Village Of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board Minutes

11/15/22 Park and Tree Board Meeting:

Present: Board Members - Caitlin Parwana; Judy Esposito; Ray Otten

Trustees: Liz Kormos, Ben Baskin

Public: Shannon Hansen; Jennifer Blaumbaer, Pat Burnham

Shannon: 5 trees on Columbia ave. cut down last year. Looks like tree graveyard. Stumps remain.

DPW contractor took them down. They needed to come down. Not sure who contractor is. Caitlin will ask Jeff.

Concern – Communication - Would be good to be informed prior to cutting.

Would like stumps to come out.

Usually stump not removed.

Committee recommends that when tree is removed, so is stump. So we're not left with a lot of stumps.

Also, DPW should inform committee and homeowners that a tree is scheduled to come down. So committee can update map, and homeowners know.

Liz – We don't normally stump grind unless requested.

Can consider this a formal request.

Milton does have a stump grinder. Columbia Ave. is in Milton. Could ask Milton.

Grinding company will check water/gas lines before taking it out.

Village can ask Town to borrow stump grinder.

Residents will ask village if village can get rid of stumps, will send emails to village.

Liz – might apply for a grant to do more maintenance.

Need process for updating inventory as it changes.

Shannon – offering to help with fundraising for tree donations. Caitlyn will follow-up.

If residents email Ben, he will forward residents' email to Frank and Jeff.

Friends of Wiswall – did not meet this week

Gary Stephenson sent Judy a process for renovating benches. Judy will email it out.

Does not include cost. People looking at material-raising.

Tree-Map software – Jenn is ordering, doesn't have yet.

Tree letter will go out in a couple weeks.

Parks:

Ray – Kelley Park – Has been talking with people in the park.

Asked dog park patron – there a couple times/week. Says no one else uses it.

Dog park has cannister for bags but was empty. No garbage can.

No room inside double gate, especially if you're in wheelchair.

Can't rely on Rotary and Lions to do all repair work. Need someone to pick up trash.

Maintenance should be the village.

Could use a DPW parks person dedicated to parks maintenance.

Village has a contract to have grass mowed. Removes trash.

But no other maintenance.

Would like basketball and pickleball

Ray wants a map or arrow showing where John Romano trails are

Recommend moving the dog park closer to playground. Maybe 30 yards.

Make sure gate is universally accessible – make gate big enough for scooter and dog.

Have two dog parks – one for little, one for big dogs.

Repurpose the fences near pavilion for dog park.

ADA grant could assess.
Could add sidewalk for playground and dog park.
Wants dog park sign saying we have a dog park.
Memorial Tree Line – About 7 trees, close together, didn't see plaques except one.
They don't look good.
Park Rules and Memorial Tree rules are with Karla, village lawyer.
Ben will check on basketball hoop at BACC.
Will probably need repaving for basketball and/or pickle court.
Some things won't cost a lot – signage, maybe fencing, moving dog parks.
Put Memorial grove in where dog park is now, add picnic tables.

Colonial Hills Park – Victory Circle Park, is owned by Village
Need to contact residents to see what they want.
Liz spoke to some people – would like a playground.
Ray will get together two groups, one for Kelley, one for Colonial Hills
Ray has spoken with 9 people about working on Kelley.
These groups will work through the Park and Tree Board and coordinate with board and Friends of Wiswall.
Rec fields – could ask school if swing area could be used for a community garden

New board members

Ben will ask village to post the opening.
We have one vacancy, will have another soon.
Judy will post on all things Ballston spa
Caitlin will post on Park and Tree Board FB page
Caitlin will draft a post for us.

Chair – no news on status of mayor's appointment
Need to plan for 2023 Arbor Day, planting trees
More grant opportunities after the new year. Liz gets the notices.
Next Meeting: Dec. 20
Dec. 2 is Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting.
Dec. 6 Friends of Wiswall meeting, 5:30
Adjourned 8:13

Notes taken by Ben Baskin