

# Bunganut Park Committee Meeting Minutes

## Aug 28, 2023 6:30pm Lyman Town Hall

### Members present

Lindsay Gagne (Town Manager)  
Rusty Blackington (Select Board member)  
Tom Hatch (Select Board Member)  
Michelle Felicitti  
Holly Wooldridge  
Liz Mitchell  
Holly Hart  
Karen Kane  
Kevin Veilleux

Committee introduction by Rusty

Calls for establishing Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary

Holly makes a motion to nominate Michelle as Chair, seconded by Karen, vote 8-0

Karen volunteers as Vice Chair

Rusty makes a motion for Kevin as Secretary, seconded by Holly, vote 8-0

Michelle suggests getting everyone to review and sign the Town official code of ethics policy at the next meeting.

Tom distributes a "To Do" list for park/fields from the ARPA committee for the park and reiterates there are currently no ARPA funds available for improvements.

Michelle suggests the Bunganut committee ask the budget committee to create an account similar to the Kennebunk Pond account improvement fund.

Karen would like to look into potential grants more.

Lindsay mentions the AARP Elder Friendly Program and potential grants from it.

Michelle mentions state programs for trail grants and other improvements.

Discussion of the To Do list, only damaged picnic tables have been replaced.

Discussion of a committee site walk, potentially on a Saturday morning. Rusty says there are a lot of people there for soccer games (Massabesic United).

Concession stand repairs at field are top priority for safety purposes.

Michelle starts a round table discussion of everyone's reasons/goals/needs for joining the committee.

Kevin mentions he thinks the park is an important asset to the town and would like to see it be a break-even operation for the taxpayers and potentially even shift to a net positive/self-sustaining facility. Also, he mentions that there might be other opportunities beyond just the YMCA (aka Y) program to utilize the park assets like other outside town rec programs looking for parks to use.

Liz uses the field side more and would like to see some more of the unused land utilized, playground and parking improvements. Lakeside could use more sandy beach area.

Holly W would like to see more year-round activities and make it a hub for community use. Clearing the hill for winter use, there used to be a skating pond behind the irrigation pond.

Holly H walks both sides a lot. Trails are overgrown. Year-round snowshoeing, cross-country ski skating, etc. Property also abuts York County Soil Conservation preserve with more potential trails etc. They were allowed to groom the trails for snowshoeing over there.

Michelle mentions potentially having a high school cross-country meet if the trails are improved. The Boy Scouts were supposed to make new signs, not sure of status.

Holly H mentions the "mansion" (green building) the Y uses as being in disrepair and squatters living in it during the winter.

Michelle mentions the Pines and potentially building a pavilion to rent out for weddings/events. Picnic tables are basically in a bog that has been really wet. Large grass area could use some improvement, drainage. Mentions looking for grants and improve things.

Rusty thinks the Pines could be cash cow if power is brought in for events.

Michelle mentions the lack of changing rooms. Currently there is basically a woodshed designated as changing room with not lighting and potential wildlife issues.

Holly H says there are dangerous collapsed outhouse type of pits in the Boy Scout area that need to covered/filled.

Rusty says the stone building is full of potential out in the Pines. On the Field side, snack shack needs the safety upgrades. Parking needs to be expanded/widened and marked better. Lights for fields would be good, even temporary. Liz mentions they may approach local business for this.

Karen lists basic infrastructure improvements as being priority. Suggests a survey to get list of Lyman residents needs for park/fields. Michelle asks Lindsay to setup a survey on town website. Karen says kayak access is terrible and needs to be improved from parking lot, same with strollers and carts.

Tom says existing facilities need fixing as top priority. Getting a dumpster installed was good for trash removal. Lakeside potential is tremendous. Drainage needs upgrades. Fixing park could be good for old home days and other community events. Ticket booth is falling apart and needs replacement. Committee should look over YMCA when packing things up after season is over. Look for donations from local businesses (gravel, other materials) and landscape improvements. Look to reduce people on the roadway.

Discussion of new ticket booth needs some thought, same with changing building/rooms. Broken bridge down by beach needs replacement. Mansion needs repair.

Lindsay says the Y is keeping track of use data. There needs to be another look at fee structures. Rain has caused numbers to be skewed this season. Other towns have festivals with donations to raise money for parks & rec. Food trucks, Apple festival, silent auction etc.

Discussion on funds returned to town by Y, less than projections. Fundraising would be a good start. Look to local businesses for sponsorship. Buy a brick/stone programs.

Michelle says handicap access is difficult.

Tom says there is a huge stash of woodchips on-site that could be utilized. There is also the Southern Maine United Way Day of Caring where volunteers come in to work. Getting local businesses to bring in the proper heavy equipment to make improvements.

Lindsay says the Y has a program for the kids to work on the trails etc.

Tom says to get a plan together and then reach out to local businesses for help.

Michelle says later on an architect may be needed for planning.

Tom and Rusty discuss field side parking expansion.

Holly H says winter parking is non-existent with gates being locked and unplowed.

Michelle says inexpensive security lighting could help deter mischievous characters.

Rusty says as long as vehicles cannot get from the parking lot to the fields is key.

Dogs are not allowed in the park and only on leash on the fields. Possible to allow them on the trails and/or time locked (late day etc.)

Discussion on meeting timeframes, 3 to 4 weeks as needed.

Discussion of a snowshoe event this winter.

Tom mentions discussion of plow contracts with Select Board. Lakeside would be the preferred side to keep plowed.

Discussion to setup site walk after Labor Day.

Tom will contact the United Way for volunteers.

Karen will look into the AARP grant programs.

Holly H will explore the state grant programs, Land for Maine's Future etc.

Liz will look into fundraising ideas.

Tom and Rusty show pictures of the stone building in the Pines.

Discussion about proper winter storage of picnic tables etc.

Tom motions to adjourn, seconded by Kevin vote 8-0