

**NORTH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 7, 2022**

**Attendance:** Richard Willard, Ginny Ricker, Francine Provost, Dave Hall, Moe and Christy Gilchrist, Lara Houghton-Robinson, Chip and Lee Woods, and Christopher Merrill, Director, Springfield Department of Recreation.

The meeting was called to order in the warming hut by Richard Willard at 6:30 p.m.

Members greeted newly appointed Springfield Recreation Department Director Chris Merrill. Chris was invited to discuss his goals for and administration of the recreation department and its relationship to the parks, venues and activities overseen by his department, the North School Recreation Park being among many such parks in and around Springfield.

He and the members acknowledged that, since the inception of the North School Preservation Society's ownership of the park, there has been informal use and maintenance of the park, playground and warming hut on the premises between NSPS and the recreation department. He and the members agreed that all of us would like to rely on a written agreement of the use and responsibilities of both the recreation department and NSPS regarding the grounds and facilities at the North School Recreation Park. Chris volunteered to refer the members to a paralegal who would help us draft such an agreement. He also volunteered to attend future NSPS meetings in order to participate and be available in drafting the agreement. Members welcomed this plan.

Chris also discussed the possibility of the recreation department installing a baseball field on the grounds near the playground. The ballfield would be designed for elementary school-age ball games. Members agreed that this would be a welcome addition to the park.

After concluding the meeting with Chris Merrill, there was a short break for refreshments and the regular monthly meeting began at 7:40 p.m.

### **May Minutes**

Minutes of the May 2022 meeting were motioned and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ginny presented the report for May 2022 which was distributed to members. After expenses and income (which included proceeds from the May16 yard sale), the treasury stands at \$21,974.14 until audit.

### **Old Business**

#### **Building Repair**

##### **- Slate Roof Repair**

Melanson Co. has begun repairs to the slate portions of the roof. Dave reported that the repairs around the leaking chimney have been completed. The remaining repairs continue to completion. Dave was, however, advised by the roofers that both the chimneys are in

critical need of repointing. Dave advises us to begin budgeting for this expense as it is not covered in the current roof repair costs and will need to be contracted to a company which can repair masonry and chimneys.

### **Grounds Cleanup**

Richard discussed the need to brushhog the remaining perimeter of the upper field and will advise Dave and others of the availability of his friend who can help. Since the remaining perimeter will not interfere with the upcoming plans for a baseball field, the task can be done at a future time.

### **Grants**

Richard contacted an online grant source but has not received a response. Dave was informed by the town manager that the person suggested to help draft a grant application replied that they had no expertise in that area. More suggestions are welcome.

### **Tag Sales**

The remaining tag sales for the year are as follows: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 17 and October 8. The tag sales will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each sale will be preceded by a setup day the Friday before from 2 to 4 p.m. Ginny posted a sign listing the sales on the bulletin board in the back entrance.

The next sale is set for Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Moe will put the signs out on Monday, June 9. Volunteers are welcome to help set up and take down the as well as assist with ongoing work. The next setup will be Friday, June 10, from 2-4 p.m.

### **Facebook Updates**

At present, Lara is unable to access Facebook without a cell phone. It was decided to maintain the current NSPS FB page as is, with appointed administrators updating it as needed.

### **New Business**

Richard has been in touch with Dottie Garland, a longtime member from North Springfield who moved to New Jersey to be near her daughter. She and her daughter will be traveling to Springfield for the Springfield Alumni Day on the weekend of June 18-19. He will arrange a reunion for North School members to greet and visit with her and will let us know the date, time and place.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business introduced, the meeting was motioned and approved for adjournment at 8:25 p.m.

*The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the warming hut.*