

North School Preservation Society
Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2024

Attendance: NSPS members Richard Willard, Francine Provost, David Hall, Ginny Ricker, Maurice Gilchrist, Margery Burbank, Nate Willard, Lara Houghton-Robinson Guests: Lions Club members Mike Martin, Ken Millay and Bruce Savery; Springfield Town Manager Jeff Mobus; Louise Nufield (visitor)

Richard opened the meeting to the guests. Lions Club President Mike Martin and Ken Millay reported favorably on their visit to the dog park in Windsor. Ginny distributed summaries of her research regarding dog parks nationwide.

Mike discussed the proposal for the use of the North School Park to include a dog park installed by the Lions Club and maintained by the Lions Club and the Town of Springfield. He delineated provisions for the park which would be planned and installed in stages, each of which would be coordinated with approval of the North School Preservation Society, the Town of Springfield and the Lions Club. The final plan would be presented for approval of the residents of Springfield.

Visitor Louise Nufield explained that she wishes to donate fencing for the park in honor of her late husband, George Nufield, who had been an active community member in Springfield and with the Springfield Humane Society. She proposed a “friends of the dog park” organization as an ongoing support group.

NSPS members discussed questions regarding ongoing design, construction and maintenance plans as well as liability insurance for the dog park and the recreation park as a whole. NSPS members were told that these issues and others would be decided in stages and in conference with Lions Club members, the Town Manager and NSPS members. With agreement of all parties, the Town Manager will draft a “Memo of Understanding” with the Lions Club, the Town of Springfield and the North School Preservation Society. NSPS members were assured that the

decision to host the dog park would be entirely at the discretion of NSPS for approval or rejection. If continuation was agreed by NSPS, it was requested that appointed NSPS members successively meet with the Lions Club members for development of the dog park.

At 6:55 p.m. the visitors concluded their presentation, whereupon Richard opened the regular NSPS monthly meeting.

A motion was made by Lara and seconded by Moe with unanimous approval to proceed with plans to establish the dog park as specified by the Lions Club. The following NSPS members were selected to successively meet with the Lions Club and Town representatives: Ginny Ricker, Lara Houghton-Robinson, Nate Willard, Moe Gilchrist and Dave Hall.

June Minutes

Minutes of the June meeting were motioned and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ginny distributed the Treasurer's report for June, which included proceeds from the June yard sale and expenses for trash disposal, building repairs, and postage. The report will stand for audit.

Old Business

Building repairs: Dave utilized wood shingles previously donated by Chip Woods to replace some missing and rotted shingles on the building, in part to satisfy requirements of the insurance company.

Property update: Dave researched a source of playground wood chips to replenish those now exhausted. He suggested using regular chips as a foundation layer and topping those with regulation playground chips. He suggested sourcing the chips from Sheehan's, a local supplier, and hauling them with his trailer to save delivery expenses. A motion was made, seconded and approved for Dave to buy and haul the chips later this summer.

Car Show update: Richard reported that the participants were enthusiastic despite the adverse weather on the day of the show. He reported that they are eager to recruit more participants for a show next summer on the last

Saturday of June 2025. Advance planning will proceed this year in anticipation.

Next Yard Sale: Saturday, July 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; set up Friday, July 12, noon-2 p.m.

Other Business

Fire extinguisher replacement: Ginny reported that Vermont Life Safety no longer services extinguishers. She contacted Impact Fire Co. and was told that the company does safety checks and the fee for inspecting three to seven extinguishers is \$130 plus a \$15 zone fee, which may not be necessary depending on the zone designated for the school. They are booking appointments for new customers in September.

Liability insurance: Moe reported that none of the insurance companies he contacted have responded to his inquiries, and NSPS continues to seek a more cost-effective insurer prior to renewal of its current insurance policy. The issue will be further discussed with regard to the plans for the proposed dog park.

The business having been concluded, a motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Next monthly meeting; Tuesday, August 6, 6 p.m. in the warming hut.