

North School Preservation Society Meeting Minutes August 6, 2024

Attendance: Richard Willard, Francine Provost, Ginny Ricker, Maurice Gilchrist, Margery Burbank, Nate Willard, Lara Houghton-Robinson

July 2 Meeting Minutes: Minutes were motioned and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ginny distributed the Treasurer's Report for July to members. After income which included the July yard sale, and regular expenses the report stands for audit.

Old Business

Dog park update: No contact has been made from the Lions Club in July. Ginny advised that, when the anticipated "Memorandum of Agreement" is received from the Town and Lions Club, NSPS enlist a lawyer to guide the organization through upcoming negotiations. Local lawyer Ethan McNaughton was recommended, and Nate Willard offered to contact him to ask if he would be willing to work with NSPS on this issue, either pro bono or in a hired capacity.

Liability Insurance: Ginny reported that our current liability insurance does not include liability for a dog park. If a dog park is installed the current policy would require a separate insurance rider of a minimum of \$2500. Also, the insurance policy prohibits coverage for any dog park which is owned by a municipality or a city. Francine and Moe agreed to join Ginny to meet with the insurance carrier prior to renewal or, if earlier, when the proposal for the dog park is known.

Building and property update: There are no updates regarding the school building. It was noted that the park lawns have not been recently mowed. The agreement with the suggested volunteer mower remains to be discussed when Dave returns from his vacation.

Yard sale: The upcoming yard sale is on Aug., 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.; setup Friday, Aug. 9, noon-2 p.m. In light of the current weather report of an oncoming storm, members decided to meet for setup on Friday at noon and prepare for an indoor yard sale.

Fire Extinguishers: Inspection and possible replacement is pending a scheduled visit from Impact Fire sometime in September.

New Business

Grout Family Reunion: Richard has proposed the rental of the North School Park and hut for 100th reunion in 2025 of the Grout Family, his relatives and the organization for which he is the president. The proposal is a possible alternate selection pending the group's reservation of the Wheeler Mansion. Richard will monitor this and advise NSPS if the North School is selected as the site of the reunion.

2025 Car Show: Richard is organizing the next annual car show to be held at the North School Park. With additional confirmation of attendees from him, advance publicity will include coordination of local advertising and publication and distribution of promotional flyers.

North Springfield Community Street Fair: A North Springfield community street fair has been tentatively scheduled for Aug. 24 by organizers who have requested the use of the North School for parking. However, there is no recent confirmation from the organization planning the fair. If the fair is confirmed, NSPS members will make the park and school available and open the school for potential sales of merchandise.

The business being concluded, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 6 p.m. in the warming hut.