

Parks and Recreation  
August 28, 2023

In attendance: John and Kelly Dossett, Donna Maughlin, Sandy Thompson, Chris Allen, Jonalie Comeau

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Sandy started with a quick question – what happened to pickleball? Chris assured it that it hasn't been forgotten, it just takes a lot of time to get grants, paperwork, etc in order. So, it will be awhile.

There was a brief discussion about grants – we're looking at a grant for sidewalks (much needed) and one for the Fire Department, to separate the Fire Department from the Public Works.

The dog park – A few thoughts regarding the dog park.

- Leasing the land from the Railroad is a tough situation, as the railroad is changing hands.
- Town Pump may have grants for this.
- Could someone put one in somewhere else – say on private property?
- Kelly mentioned an area down on Central, near the post office. We would have to figure out parking and maybe put in some trees, but it would be very workable.

The old jail – We are looking at getting a French Drain. Hopefully in September there will be some work done on the jail, especially to keep the water out of the building.

Sidewalks – There are many blocks with no sidewalk, a buried sidewalk, or a sidewalk in disrepair. We are applying for grants for the sidewalks. If we can get one, the challenge is to find someone to do the work. It was suggested that perhaps our own Public Works guys could at least do the sidewalk in the park that would go from the edge of the park to the ADA compliant picnic tables.

Trees were next up for discussion. To be able to be a 'tree city', we need to have an ordinance in place. We have a 'template' right now, for the council to look over. Kelly brought up one point in the proposed ordinance that talks about eliminating trees on private property. The section in question says that if someone has a questionable tree, the town could ask them to take it down. If they do not, the town can take it down and send the bill to the property owner.

Tree removal is difficult – as trees age out, they become a problem, but they are very expensive to remove. John suggested that we could hire a lift and have our guys at least prune the trees that have some sections dying, like the one in the pool park.

Kelly and John had gone through town and found only about three trees in town (including private and public property) – that should come down soon.

When we are a tree city, we can get a grant for \$850. Kelly asked if it is worth it. Her biggest concern was about the Arbor Day celebration. That may be more complicated than first thought. The Deputy clerk will investigate it. John will find a list of trees that would be good to plant.

The next meeting will be September 11, at 2:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm

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Jonalie Comeau, Deputy Clerk