

**Veterans Memorial Park Committee**  
**Minutes of the March 28, 2023 Meeting**

Members Attending: Larry Mead, George Kerr, Billy Marshall, Dan Pascucci, Tina Kelly, Mike Dickinson  
Also Attending: Jay "The Gardner" Chase, Holly Korda

1. Luminary night: To take place on Sunday, May 28. There is no rain date. Set up at 6:00, light candles just before 8:00 (sunset is 8:15. Larry will speak to Shari MacDonald about designs available for the poster to put up around town, Holly will request 5 tables and 20 chairs from Jason Webber at the rec center.

Jay suggested that the Committee hold a plant sale during the Luminary Night event using the inventory of repurposed plants from last year, with proceeds going to VMP. The Committee approved of this idea.

Tina reminded the committee to use Luminary Night rather than Illumination Night so as not to be confused with an event that occurs in Ocean Park.

Larry will take care of contacting the bagpiper.

Holly will reach out to CFC, Community Friendly Connection, to ask for volunteers to help set up and light the candles (6-8 people would be ideal) and will reach out to the schools and/or Recreation seeking students to decorate bags.

2. Budget: There is currently 42K remaining in this year's budget through June. That balance should allow for getting some work and priorities accomplished this spring. The committee would like to set the following priorities:

- Tree work, Lee Jackson is thought to be scheduled for April, Larry will confirm
- Repair of the lawn area damaged by grubs
- Bench repairs
- Playground equipment repairs
- Purchase of a temporary greenhouse

With respect to the proposed FY24 budget the Town Manager has proposed \$85,000 for the Park. This represents a small increase from the current budget. Budget workshop with Council has been scheduled for April 20.

3. Capital Improvements: Currently 500K appropriated for park upgrades. In light of the fact that our grant application was not approved, the committee feels that it is necessary to break up the overall plan into smaller projects, with the replacement of the gazebo being a separate pursuit. George has been speaking to several individuals in the attempt to find one or more benefactors willing to fund the replacement of the gazebo.

Larry will write a memo to the town manager outlining the following capital upgrade priorities that the committee would like to move forward with:

- Edge and redo walkways, eventually to be done in concrete or asphalt
- Replace lighting/upgrade electrical
- Upgrade entryways
- Expand irrigation
- Replace the existing walkway to the Veterans Memorial with an accessible walkway.

In addition, Larry reported that between the Veterans Memorial Monument fund and the Memorial Park Improvement fund, there is a total of \$9,000 in reserve funds. Using those funds, the committee would like to have existing plaques cleaned and add plaques honoring veterans of the Afghanistan, Iraq and Persian Gulf wars but not without seeking input from the VFW and American Legion.

4. Finally, Larry issued a plea for new members and volunteers, especially people with an interest in gardening who might be able to assist Jay in the park this summer.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4-25-23, 4:00pm at the Library.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Dickinson