

JEL Chess Park Committee Minutes

Thursday August 21, 2025

Present: Michael Brunelle (zoom), Joe Diaz, Janet Jenkins, Ben Marinelli, Kayla Marinelli, Bernadette Meade, Margaret Morrissey

1) July minutes were reviewed and approved

2) Updates

a) Town Manager (Michelle Hill) Meeting:

- i) Chess Park is now part of the Town Web Site under pay online tab
- ii) Library staff will be trained on accounting process with weekly updates
- iii) Michelle will be out on leave of absence until September 30th. Joanne Savignac will be available to assist.

b) Bernadette had conversation with State Representative, John Marsi.

- i) He was supportive of the project
- ii) He suggested to meet with Peg Dean, Director of Southbridge Economic Development and Planning and discuss Park Grants.

(1) Bernadette met with her and she supported the idea of applying for grant in 2027. If received, it would fund 70% of project if we could raise the other 30% of budget

3) Fund Raising

a) Discussion on need to finalize our Campaign name and logo

- i) All agreed on logo being "A place for everyone across the Board" with the JEL Community Chess Park as the official title of the campaign.
- ii) Ben and Joe with finalized color and fonts to be used for marketing pieces
 - (1) Margaret provided current library color etc.
 - (2) Once finalized need to publish marketing materials

b) The process of making donations on the town website was reviewed.

- i) It was suggested reversing order of donation amounts. Bernadette will meet with acting Town treasurer to get revision.
- ii) Once library staff are trained, Bernadette will do test donations.
- iii) Need to develop an external link for further explanation of the donation process

c) Grants- Possible T- Mobile grant – Bernadette will send to Kayla for review.

4) PR

- i) JEL Board of Trustees approved \$1000. for our marketing.
- ii) Bernadette will purchase the large chess sets to be used at community events
- iii) Bernadette will see at SBP meeting if we can obtain an Autumn fest table in kind
- iv) Bernadette will present at the SBP on August 25th and the Town Council and Planning Committee in Oct. Other community organizations will be contacted for presentations
- v) Bernadette suggested participation in the Festival of Trees. Kayla might have chess tree decorations.
- vi) Other community organizations will be contacted for presentations

5) Next Meeting: – next meeting THURSDAY September 18, 2025 5:30pm