

**Monkton Recreation Committee**  
**Monday, November 3, 2025**  
**7:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**Meeting conducted at New Town Hall**

Members Present: Sarah Bouchard, Paul Low, Rick Imes, Ed Cook, John Zaikowski  
Others Present: Ralph FitzGerald, Terrie FitzGerald, Cathie Buscaglia

1. Call to Order: Zaikowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
  
2. Review and approval of October 6 meeting minutes: **Low made a motion to approve the October 6 minutes. Bouchard seconded. No changes or modifications. All were in favor. (5-0-0).**
  
3. ARPA project updates: Ralph and Terrie FitzGerald on behalf of the hardcourt subcommittee discussed status of hardcourt project. The \$20,300.00 proposal for sealing, painting, and lining the hardcourts from Vermont Tennis Court Association was updated and the Selectboard signed it on October 14, 2025. Work would be conducted some time in the spring once adequate funding is secured. Hardcourt subcommittee will be looking into fundraising options, applying for a grant, and possibly putting an article on the Town meeting ballot. Rec Committee Members discussed whether an amount from the Recreation Fund could be provided towards completing the project and applying for the grant, which is a matching fund grant. The Recreation Fund has a current balance of approximately \$10,500.00. Committee members recognized the overall positive benefits of the hardcourts and positive community support received thus far. Members discussed the need to balance those benefits with the need to ensure adequate funds remained in the Fund to support and maintain other programs and infrastructure. **Low made a motion to authorize \$6,000.00 from the Recreation Fund be used towards the cost of surfacing the hardcourts. Imes seconded. All were in favor. (5-0-0).** Low is looking to begin exercise station equipment installation within the next several weeks. The walking path project will need to wait until spring given site conditions and need to complete exercise stations first. Zaikowski will contact Livingstons to advise of spring timeline.
  
4. Upcoming basketball season: Zaikowski advised registration for this season is open. It is likely additional jerseys and basketballs will need to be purchased

given number of remaining jerseys and need to replace basketballs. **Bouchard made a motion to authorize Zaikowski to purchase basketball jerseys and basketballs, not to exceed \$500. Low seconded. All were in favor. (5-0-0)**

5. 2026 Budget: Buscaglia advised the dog park continues to do well and is in use year-round. Buscaglia discussed mowing of dog park, done by contractor (Barrows), who also mows the other areas of Morse Park, in addition to other Town properties. The Monkton Community Dog Park has a separate contract for mowing the dog park, which is approximately \$1,100. There are also other ancillary expenses (animal waste bags, mulch, general maintenance) that are approximately \$300 per year. This had been paid for through their fundraising efforts, but has become increasingly challenging. At its March 3, 2025 meeting, the Rec Committee agreed to take on the mowing expense for 2025, with the Recreation Committee and Dog Park Committee re-evaluating funding options for 2026. Buscaglia talked to the Selectboard, and it advised that the Dog Park Committee should confer with the Rec Committee about taking on the additional cost and submitting it through the budget proposal process. The Dog Park Committee is asking whether the Recreation Committee would be willing to take on this expense for 2026. Members identified the value the dog park has brought to the community, and the need to balance that value with its ability to absorb this type of expense. **Zaikowski made a motion to have the Recreation Committee take on the Dog Park mowing and other ancillary expenses and add \$1,500 to its 2026 budget request. Cook seconded. All were in favor. (5-0-0).** Zaikowski presented the overall proposed budget to other members. General discussion about the appropriate amount to request, taking into account prior years' requests, activity fees and rentals being down, higher cost for equipment, various facilities maintenance expenses, and additional dog park expense. These factors necessitated an increased request of \$10,500. **Zaikowski made a motion to accept the budget proposal with a request for \$10,500. Cook seconded. All were in favor (5-0-0).**

6. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Zaikowski