

# **PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE JOINT MEETING**

## **FEBRUARY MINUTES**

- Date:** February 19, 2026 – Courtroom/Village Hall 7:30pm
- Attendance:** Vicky VanDyke, James Bostler, Patrick Erb, Jim VanGoor, Sheila Brogan, Liz Kloak, Catie Kearns, Jessica VanAken, Jim Morgan, Kate Heighington, Matthew Lindenberg, Julia Buckley, Katie Frey, Mary Hefferan
- Public Attendance:** Cynthia Halaby, Karen Bohn, Hans Lehmann, Bob Cohn, Jeri Cohn, Carolyn Jacoby, Meredith Sullivan, Paul Vagianos, Green Team member
- Welcome and Intro of PRC Board and Open Space Members:** PRC Board members introduced themselves.  
Open Space members introduced themselves.
- Public Comment:** Cynthia Halaby shared the CRPL co-sponsorship of the NY/NJ trail assessment. Carolyn Jacoby shared the need of maintenance for Ridgewood’s open spaces.
- Presentation: RLA Donation to Maple Park:** Meredith Sullivan from the RLA presented a gift of a new scoreboard at Maple Park. She shared pictures of the current scoreboard and pictures of the scoreboard that they would like to gift to the Village of Ridgewood. She shared all costs of installation, replacement, shipping will all be included in the gift. K. Frey shared the Park and Recreation department will be managing the use of the scoreboard similar to field lights. Approved with motions by K. Heighington, J. Morgan made a second motion. All in favor.
- Presentation: Patrick Erb, NY/NJ Trail Conference:** V. VanDyke introduced the Program Coordinator for Ridgewood’s Trail Plan Assessment.  
Patrick Erb introduced the NY/NJ Trail Conference that has been in existence for 100 years. The trail conference is responsible for developing, building and maintaining hiking trails. He went into more detail about all the offerings of this team. The parks that he assessed were: Dunham Trail, Grove Park, Irene Habernickel Park, Gypsy/Kings Pond Park, and Twinney Pond Park. He shared a heat map that shows how much our parks are used and where the public walk and bike. The goal is to create a group of volunteers to become stewards and maintain the trails. A few of the members asked questions and the conversation continued with the group.
- Discussion:**
- Executing the Open Space Tax Referendum:** J. Bostler shared his gratefulness of the open space tax referendum passing and for the help of the PRC Board. He explained that there is a three-part effort to implement the Open Tax Referendum. We need to abide by the Village of Ridgewood Ordinance which includes: stewardship, land acquisition and improvements of the parks. There is also a need to look at floodplains and blue acre property. The efforts will be in fulfilling the guidelines of the Green Acres which has specific regulations for land acquisition.

Conclusion: V. VanDyke shared with the group about the Village of Ridgewood park inventory that exists online and all of its features. This needs to be better publicized with the community as most are unaware. The public needs to know about all of our parks that are available for both passive and active recreation. The group discussed different ideas of informing and encouraging the community to learn about and visit the parks available to them. In order to begin this, we need trail stewards and signage.

Adjournment: Approved with motions made by J. Bostler, J. Morgan made second motion.  
8:35pm

Next Meeting Open Space Meeting – Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Stable  
PRC Meeting – Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at Stable