

Town of Stowe Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes — May 6, 2026

Attendance

Members present: Marie Kingsbury, Bill Scudder, Ryan Thibeault, Jennifer Gryckiewicz, Lyn Goldsmith, Deb Drinkwater

Staff present: Matt Frazee

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 1, 2026 were approved as amended, with a correction to a member's name.

3. Mayo Farm Update

No formal action was required at this meeting. The Director provided the following update:

- Wetland delineation funding has been secured through coordination with Charles and Sarah. Approximately \$10,000.
- Field work is scheduled to begin the week of May 18, with completion targeted by June 1.
- Fields to be delineated this round: L (Polo), D, and E. Fields J and K were delineated last year, completing the picture across J, K, L, D, and E.
- The delineation results will determine next steps. If Polo is largely wetland and D and E are suitable, the case for a J/K/L to D/E swap strengthens. If D and E are not suitable, the Commission returns to the drawing board.

Memorial Park: The Commission has re-engaged Black River Design to further explore the permitting process and determine what is feasible at the Memorial Park site. The previously presented conceptual plan faces significant permitting hurdles, particularly with respect to wetlands impact.

A potential reconfiguration was discussed: utilizing the upper field, impacting some wetlands on the lower field with permits, and locating two Little League fields, the basketball court, a second playground, and the main playground at Memorial Park. Under this scenario the existing large field would need to be relocated, and pickleball courts would need to either be reworked into the site or sited at Mayo Farm. The Commission discussed the necessity of retaining a large field in town.

Sequencing was discussed. The Commission's task in coming months is to clearly define recreation needs at Mayo Farm and how those relate to Memorial Park. The Conservation Commission is expected to be the initial filter for these requests. The ultimate process for any easement amendment or termination will be determined by the Selectboard, Town Manager, and town legal counsel.

The Commission discussed the value of beginning informal education sessions with the Land Trust once delineation results are in hand, so that conversations are grounded in facts rather than concepts. Staff confirmed that ongoing communication with the Conservation Commission continues.

4. Mayo Farm Capital Project — Fencing and Site Improvements

- A barrier fence will be installed at the parking lots of fields A, B, and C, with quotes being assembled. Work to begin after July 1.
- Boulders will be repurposed at the Field 1 / Mountain Road parking area to replace fencing that cannot be installed due to floodplain restrictions.
- Twelve trail signs are being installed, six of them on the Quiet Path. Six are targeted for installation before the Friday event.

5. Upcoming Events

Hammock Garden: Friday, 3:30 p.m. Hammocks were tested with Parks staff and will be hung the day before the event. Cemetery Bridge will be open the following week.

Moscow Playground: Pre-construction walk completed with the vendor. Installation is tentatively scheduled to begin May 18 or May 26 and is expected to take three to four days. Following installation, staff will reseed grass, top-dress the gravel walkway, and install playground mulch. A bench has been ordered with a five to six week lead time. Ribbon cutting is targeted for the end of June. Event committee currently includes Kelly Milick, Matt Frazee, Thomas Hamilton, and Ethan Carlson. Jennifer Gryckiewicz and Deb Drinkwater volunteered to join the event committee.

Fireworks Festival (Semiquincentennial - 250th anniversary of signing of Declaration): Selectboard provided an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000 to enhance the event. Fireworks costs have risen from \$13,500 last year to \$20,000 this year for the same package; an additional \$2,500 has been allocated for a second grand finale interspersed throughout the show, themed red, white, and blue.

The event committee has held its first meeting and continues coordination with Stowe Vibrancy on shared resources for the parade and festival. Areas of focus this year are music, stage and tent presentation, and food offerings. Confirmed so far:

- Mobile stage, sound system, and tech provided by the Zen Barn for \$2,500.
- A regional artist booked through Spruce Peak Arts (Seth Holloway), funded by Spruce Peak.
- Five food vendors confirmed to date, with a target of eight to ten.
- Outreach to additional vendors through Molly at the Stowe Farmers Market and other contacts is ongoing.

Vendor logistics: vendor fee is \$175 flat. Vendors must provide a Certificate of Insurance and applicable license. The standard space is 10x10. Event hours are 6 p.m. to dark.

6. Annual Appointments

Officer positions for the coming year were discussed. Members agreed to retain current positions: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary unchanged.

7. Other Business

Quiet Path erosion: Continued erosion was discussed near the hammock area. State regulations limit options for riprap and similar interventions on recreation paths. The path was relocated approximately two years ago and is again losing ground; further relocation inland is anticipated. The Commission will look for any relevant findings from the upcoming wetland delineation work.

Pickleball: Capital project funds remaining will be used for a windscreen, a bench, and a water bottle filling station at the pickleball courts. The Stowe Pickleball Club is in the process of dissolving as a formal organization. The Club will continue to manage signups through PlayerLineup; the Town will host signup access via the town website and a QR code on the court fence. No reservation system is contemplated unless usage volume requires it.

Recreation path restoration: Remaining capital funds will also address gravel and grass restoration on path shoulders left by the contractor.

Stowe Trails Association: A member noted that the Stowe Trails Association occasionally circulates podcasts on board functionality and parliamentary procedure that may be useful to share.

Newcomer outreach: A member suggested exploring a renewed newcomers' event modeled on prior Stowe Vibrancy efforts as a way to introduce residents to town boards and commissions.

Stowe video: A short video produced in connection with Guys Farm and Yard, focused on Morristown and welcoming new residents, will be circulated with these minutes.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Drinkwater