

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING / REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, Alexis Daniels, George Swanson (via Zoom), Greg Fatigate (via Zoom)

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:32.

2. Water Line

Casey said under the town procurement policy, if the quote is under \$3K we don't have to get other bids. She thinks Greg's estimate could probably get below \$3K if the materials he was going to purchase were put on the town account vs. reimbursing him.

John read from the procurement policy, which says purchases between \$1K and \$5K need approval from the town and competitive quotes should be obtained whenever possible. He thinks we should at least get another quote.

Casey asked, this will be on the next selectboard agenda? John said yes.

Casey said we are not in a rush to get a Vermont Community Foundation grant application in. We can apply for up to \$5K. They only meet once a month for this grant, so the application wouldn't be looked at until August and money would be available sometime in September. We will have to give up on having water for Let's Roll. We need water for Skate the Arts camp, which starts August 10, but we could manage with containers.

John asked if Geoff Hall could add the water line excavation to the work he will be doing, since he has an excavator. Casey said she doesn't know that he has done that kind of work and Greg's excavator is a more appropriate size. A problem is that vehicles will have to travel directly over the water line for the concrete bowl construction project.

Casey said she has a call in to Manosh to ask about rented water in a tank, but that will be expensive. Skate the Arts usually has 4 counselors and around 20 kids, though last year was more like 10 or 15. They have art activities that involve paint and glue. The camp lasts for one week, 4 or 5 hours per day.

Greg said his estimate is only an estimate, not a definite price. He did not account in it for any of the fixtures and fittings Casey had suggested the town would supply.

Casey said another question is who will do the plumbing. Greg said he is comfortable attaching things to the water line and tightening hose clamps. He accounted for that in the labor time in his estimate.

John said the purchasing policy encourages getting a second estimate. Casey suggested maybe we can make a case that Greg knows the land and did the excavation that diagnosed the problem.

Casey said she thinks the village would do the initial hookup to the pipe at the meter house. Howard said in his experience they would want to.

John said if we used bottled water for Skate the Arts, we would need about 200 bottles, or 10 cases. Casey said in addition to potable water, we need wash water. John said 10 cases is not a major expense. It is just a matter of keeping it cool. Casey said Jolley used to let us keep things in their cooler overnight, but now the store is under different management.

George asked about stormwater permitting. Casey said we have our permit. It came through yesterday.

Casey said the selectboard officially awarded the contract to Catamount. They also agreed to provide up to \$14K from surplus if fundraising, grants, etc. do not cover the deficit for this project. Alexis said the GoFundMe is up and has some donations already. John suggested the committee could put up a board with a thermometer to track fundraising. That might encourage more donations. *(John left at 5:53.)*

3. *Elect Chair for FY2027*

Casey said we need to elect a chair for the new fiscal year. **Greg moved to elect Casey as committee chair, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.**

4. *Minutes of June 10, 2026*

The minutes of June 10, 2026 were approved by consensus.

5. *Directors' Orders*

Casey said there were no directors' orders for the month.

6. *FEMA Bowl: Concrete Project; Permit & Budget Updates*

Casey said the offer of the town to provide up to \$14K to support the project means that on paper we don't have a funding gap, but in fact part of the way that is achieved is by completely emptying our reserve fund and using all our budget. She is applying for some grants. Alexis asked if we want our GoFundMe goal to be \$10K. Casey said yes. Casey said Union Bank is willing to give some money. She thinks Community Bank will. If we can raise \$14K, then we don't need the town money, but we still will have totally used our reserve fund.

Greg asked if there is a construction start date. Casey said no. Geoff Hall has just said it will be in September. The Halls think the project will take 7 or 8 weeks.

Greg asked if he can reduce the amount he charges for brush hogging at the skatepark and put the remainder toward the concrete project. Casey said yes. Greg said he anticipates donating 50% of his usual charge.

7. *Site Maintenance, Other Site Issues*

Casey said when Michael Dolan backed off from doing the maintenance work, he said he would return the keys, but he hasn't. We do have copies. Greg asked if it is easier just to change the locks. Casey said that would be a pretty big expense but we could do that.

Casey said Cynthia Hennard posted on Front Porch Forum to solicit donations of basketballs for the skate park. She got donations from one of the Hills and from VTSU athletics.

Casey said John took our garbage to the town dumpster for us. We don't have a dumpster and if we can do without one it saves quite a bit of money.

Casey said the college student who did site maintenance for us last year is back in Johnson and happy to work for us again, but he has to go back and forth by bike so he can't carry tools or bags of trash.

Cynthia Hennard walks her dog at the skatepark every day, so Casey asked if she could call if she sees an issue. Cynthia said she could.

8. *Let's Roll & Skate the Arts Programs; Town Recreation Economy Planning Grant*

Casey said Let's Roll is starting this Saturday. Skate the Arts will be the second week of August. The town recreation economy planning grant site visits will happen in August.

9. *Laraway Report*

George said Laraway's summer program just started on Monday. They are basing this semester on project-based learning and financial literacy. Students have checkbooks and are earning fictitious money from working on site. The greenhouse has been closed down. Students raised over 450 plants from seed for the school garden.

Casey asked if George could tell her who the coaches and counselors should contact if there is going to be a storm and kids need to shelter at Laraway. George gave her the names of people who could be contacted.

10. *Adjourn*

Howard moved to adjourn at 6:10, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths