

**Parks & Recreation Committee  
April Meeting  
04/24/2026 @ 5:30pm at Town Hall**

**Attendance:**

Samantha Awand-Gortel- Committee Chair  
Autumn Brookmire- Committee Vice Chair  
Conor Malarkey- Big Indian Park Manager  
Gina Krause- Rock Cut Preserve Manager

**Not Present:**

Kevin Van Blarcum- Liaison to the Town Board  
Tania Barricklo- Parish Field Manager  
Kayla Sharon- Glenbrook Park Manager  
Kerry Henderson- Skate Park Manager  
River Houska- Dog Park Manager  
Christina Varga- Marketing & PR/Social Media Manager

**Guests:**

Carolle Huber – Park plan designs  
Adam Sniderman- Big Indian Beautification Committee- Big Indian Summer Concert Series

**Meeting called to order at 5:32pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance Yes**

**March Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Motion by Autumn**

**Second by Conor**

**All in favor Y**

**Social media:**

- March Posts-
  - MF Whitney Easter Egg Hunt at Parish Field
  - How to Grow Food in partnership with Tania Barricklo, Parish Field Manager, as she hopes to utilize Parish for this program.
  - Earth Day encouraging people to help clean up and enjoy our parks.
  - We appreciate Christina's approach to posting information related to our parks. \*\*Reminder to please send any volunteers days to Christina, or to share anything with her that relates to the parks- [phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com](mailto:phoeniciafestivalofthearts@gmail.com), subject line- Parks & Rec Post\*\*
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the official Love Your Parks Day- Are we able to put something together for this as volunteers, or its cutting it too close?

### **Smith Park:**

- Skate Park-
  - Kerry is looking to step down from his role as Skate Park Manager. He will stay on the committee until he finds a replacement. He approached Doug Peltzman but questioned if he would be approved since he lives in Olive. His family uses the skate park at Smith regularly.
- We will ask Barbara T to order new hoops and nets for the basketball court. It is being used regularly by locals, and one of them asked if they could be replaced.

### **Big Indian Park:**

- Family picnic- Conor
- Volunteer Day- May 17<sup>th</sup>- What items do we want to tackle? Suggestions below.
  - Install ADA swing that Autumn will have Barbara T order.
  - Paint the basketball backboard to match the play equipment (Blue and green)
  - Mulch under the bouncy seats
  - Seal the benches
  - Remove the Indian statue at the entrance because it is rotting and could be dangerous if it falls on its own.
  - Look at adding a second basketball hoop if there is room to do so.
- Summer Concert Series- Big Indian Beautification Committee- Adam Sniderman
  - Sundays July through September from 1:30pm to 4:30pm (music from 2pm-4pm)
    - July 12th, 26th
    - August 9th, 23th
    - September 13th, 27<sup>th</sup>
    - October 4<sup>th</sup> rain date or extra day if weather permits
  - Working on a fiscal sponsorship through Phoenicia Arts Center Ltd. This will help with paying for the bands, insurance, signage, material, and port-o-potties.
  - Looking for food trucks or vendors.
  - BISCS will cross-promote all parks events and other music series in the area (Belleayre Mtn and Shandaken Inn)

### **Glenbrook Park:**

- ~~Entrance wall update-River~~
- Baseball Field- Kayla is looking into youth athletic grants because they have a batting cage net, but not the poles to put it together. The team uses a field in Woodstock that has a batting cage, and it would be beneficial and convenient to install one in Glenbrook.

- Natural Playground-
  - There will be a site visit from Kompan on May 1<sup>st</sup> to go over any last minute details and questions before they break ground. Construction/installation start date is still TBD but projected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. It will take about a month to complete the install. Kompan has another playground to install before this one. We will know 1-2 weeks out before they begin.
    - Grading the site Equipment installation first
    - Landscaping second (end of June/early July)
    - Fencing and signage last (July/August)
    - We will submit an invoice to Barbara T for trees/shrubs this month using up the final DEC grant funds. In the fall we will accept community donations and do a community planting day. Date TBD.
    - We will submit another invoice to Barbara T for playground signage from Kurt Boyer using the final DEC grant funds to close it out.
  - Artistic Bench Campaign/Useable Art in the Park (Little Free Library/Toddler Houses/Bee Hotels etc.) - Autumn and Sam will approach Phoenicia Arts Center Ltd (a non-profit organization) to be our fiscal sponsor for this project so donations are tax deductible.
- ~~Highway Requests~~ - Completed by Sam and Ted
  - Dog park sign frame will likely be destroyed trying to relocate it because it is cemented into the ground. Ask Kurt for a quote for a new frame outside the fence facing the police station.

### **Parish Field:**

- Town Lease Agreement-
  - St Francis de Sales Church owns the field, and has been looking to sell it, including the Tan Bark trail, the rectory property, and the parking lot. The town has always leased the field, and they recently approved a lease through the end of 2026 while they figure out the property sales.
- Catskill Mountain Roots Projects- Tania Barricklo
  - Tania has proposed two projects at Parish field to benefit the public and people who are part of the Good Company Club, a dementia-friendly adult care program, operated by Catskills Neighbors.
    - Walking pollinator path around the perimeter of the field and raised garden beds to learn how to grow food.
    - A letter of support was written by P&R to Father Kiley.
- Mini Golf-
  - A significant amount of water is pooling on the tarps that have covered the wooden parts of the course which is concerning. This could create mold from the moisture build up, as well as warping the wood. Varga cut holes where it

was only touching the ground to help drain, but its still pooling on the astroturf portion of the course. Corrugated roofing material was suggested to help with some of the water and run off.

- ~~Ask Kim Houska to be the “manager”~~ Unable to commit at this time.
  - If she could just be responsible for reporting feedback from the public and any concerns she has for repairs etc that would be helpful. Raise funds to help maintain, expand, and /or repair anything on the course. These things might be able to be executed by Doug Houska.
  - She seems to already have an affinity for the mini golf, so I think this role would suit her well.
- Babs suggested we reach out to Phoenicia Arts Center for fiscal sponsorship for this project because of the art aspects.
- Shandaken Eagle Day Celebration- See attached flyers and forms for parade participation and Parish Field vendors.
  - Application to use Parish Field has been completed.
- Composting dog waste bins- Adam Sniderman mentioned that he is installing home made bins at his office (he is a veterinarian) and suggested we do the same at all the parks. Our dog bags are decomposable, so this concept should work. Dig holes in the ground and place a 5-gallon bucket in them with holes in the sides. 1:3 ratio of dirt to waste, allowing worms to process the waste. Use waste digester tablets or powder to effectively reduce waste to liquid.
  - This should help reduce the waste in bins, and help avoid park managers

### **Rock Cut Preserve:**

- AWSMP meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sam attended and got some information we can use when we start working on executing the ideas for this parcel.
  - The unmarked land on the GSI map is DOT owned- They want us to provide them with a plan for use. Carrolle Huber will help us create the plan.
  - Gina would like someone to walk the property, so she knows exactly what portions of the property are for us to use. Aaron Bennett is very knowledgeable about the land, but isn't available until June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - There may be funding for the signage we want to install along the walking path through AWSMP.
  - Folks from DEP/DEC were there as well and said we shouldn't hesitate to reach out with any questions or assistance.

We will postpone our May meeting, and reconvene on or around June 1<sup>st</sup> to walk Rock Cut property with Kevin and Aaron Bennett.



# SHANDAKEN EAGLE DAY

*Presented by the Phoenicia Arts Center Ltd. and Town of Shandaken*

## Saturday, August 22nd, 2026

Parade kick-off at 11 am  
followed by a ceremony at the eagle  
and celebration at Parish Field.

- **All welcome to participate in the parade. Floats are encouraged.**
- **Register floats by July 31st @ [phoeniciaevents@gmail.com](mailto:phoeniciaevents@gmail.com)**
- **Parade lineup at 9:30 at St. Francis de Sales, kickoff at 11am.**

For more information or to participate in the day's events  
contact Sam or Heather @ [phoeniciaevents@gmail.com](mailto:phoeniciaevents@gmail.com)



The Shandaken Eagle is a 2-ton, 13-foot wingspan, cast iron sculpture located at the intersection of Routes 28 and 214 in Phoenicia, NY. Originally installed on the 1870s Grand Central Depot in NYC, it was removed in 1898, stored for decades, and relocated to the Catskills by David McLane. The Eagle was restored by metal sculptor, Dakin Morehouse, and dedicated on August 23, 1986