

Danville Town Services Committee
Recreation Committee Recommendations

Intent and Purpose: *The intention of the Town Services Committee is to provide recommendations to the Selectboard on whether the proposed service should be provided by the Town of Danville. This template provides guidance in recording and presenting information as part of a decision-making process to identify key information and determine possible options, rather than starting with a given course of action in mind.*

Task Analysis Stage – Proposed Service Evaluation

[Danville Town Plan 2024](#), Recommended Action IV.D-4: decide whether to create a Recreation Committee with the mission of developing new recreation activities and facilities and managing the existing ones.

Task Analysis Stage – Gather Information (Facts and Assumptions)

Potential areas of responsibility

- Known common or organized recreational activities (including arts)
 - Hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking
 - Croquet
 - Swimming (Joes Pond Beach)
 - Running Club (is currently Tues. 6pm)
 - LVRT: walking, biking, horseriding, snowmobiling
 - NDCC: Cribbage
 - Chamber: Danville Fair, Bear Crawl 5K, Autumn on the Green, Movie Nights on the Green, Holiday Stroll, Trunk or Treat, Ice rink
 - Community Gardens?
 - Little League
 - Music/Dance/Drama Program (Town Hall)
- Town facilities that might be covered ([TSC25 Town Properties](#))
 - Hill St Park and Gazebo
 - Town Athletic Fields
 - Town Green, Bandstand
 - Rail Trail / Athletic Fields Parking
 - Greenbanks Hollow Park
 - *Rodgers Town Forest*
 - Otis Bricket Park, covered bridge, snow machine bridge
 - *Pumpkin Hill Town Forest*
 - Joes Pond Beach
 - *North Danville Community Center*
 - Danville School Fields and Shed
 - *Route 2 - Upper Drive Right-Of-Way*
 - *Dog Park*

Current groups involved with recreational activities

- [LVRT Council](#)
- [Danville Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Danville Village Improvement Society \(DVIS\)](#)
- [West Danville Community Club \(WDCC\)](#)
- [Danville School](#)
- Joe's Pond Association
- NEK Green Mountain Club
- North Danville Community Club (NDCC)
- Little League
- [Danville Historic Society](#)

Models other towns use

- General observations:
 - Having a Selectboard-designated committee or person would help prevent the collapse of a group
 - A certain amount of funding towards activities would allow for planning within a budget
 - Collaborations with other groups already providing recreation seems essential - not reinventing the wheel but coordinating and marketing these activities
- St. J (Recreation Dept with a Director)
- Barre Town (Millstone Trails Association, collaborations, volunteers)
- Barre City (Recreation Coordinator)
- Montpelier (Recreation Dept)
- Lyndonville Recreation, Parks, Seasonal Events (collaborations, volunteers)
- Brighton Recreation (Town staff, volunteers)

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- Hardwick (Subcommittees of LVRT and Hardwick Trails)
- Marshfield (No Committee now, collaborations)
- Cabot (Recreation Committee, focus on K-6 youth sports)

Resources and other considerations

- The Town is likely to make some project funding available (on the order of \$5,000/year)
 - Green, School Fields, and Athletic Fields have some existing funding streams
- The Town is NOT likely to accept hiring recreation staff (beyond sporadic hourly reimbursement, e.g. referees or traffic control for an event)
- Residents are interested in public spaces - see [Village Charette](#), Walk Audit, [Shared Pathway project](#)
- Coordination - overlap with [Conservation Commission](#), which maintains Town Forest Trails and would like volunteers, could also co-host hikes, snowshoes, xc ski outings
- Selectboard may delegate authority with a charter, clarifying limits and public body status - perhaps supporting a separate policy

Brainstorm & Evaluate Options – Develop and Compare Options

Responsibility Decision: should this office/group/committee:

- Coordinate recreational activities only, or
- ~~Coordinate recreational activities and manage recreational facilities, or~~
- ~~Manage recreational facilities only.~~

Developed Options (all are potentially Feasible, Suitable, and Timely)

1. Appoint Recreation Officer: name a volunteer, who can privately coordinate support as needed
 - Members of public might find not Acceptable (as opposed to public body)
 - Can work independently and bring recommendations to Selectboard
 - Would not be a public body (easy to do work but must work transparently)
2. Charter Recreation Committee: establish a standing public body to manage and develop recreation activities and facilities
 1. Off-loads workload and energy for recreation to motivated committee members
 2. Risks committee priorities diverging from general public sentiment
 3. Leave decision making with Selectboard
3. ~~Delegate to Existing Group(s):~~
 - Not a good solution as this would not be significantly different would just add middleman
 - Members of public might find not Acceptable (as opposed to public body)
 - Do not take away current responsibility / authority without good reason
4. ~~Hire Recreation Official(s):~~ create a paid position or department as part of Town government.
 - The expense of paid staff, on the order of \$20K+/year, is probably not Acceptable
 - Provides most responsive, accountable, and professional management
5. ~~No Change:~~ Selectboard continues to manage recreation activities and facilities directly.
 - SB would like to have someone else focus on recreation activities (but can always choose not to)
 - SB member workload precludes many new initiatives through the current system
 - The current system is working OK without any major problems

Compare Options

To be developed for June meeting

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Selection – Refinement and Recommendation

After Option Development, come together to validate the options and confirm recommendation(s); refine details, costs, proposals. Summarize recommendation to the TSC –include nuances, especially of sub-options, for presentation to the Selectboard. Reference back to specific option recommended and the reasoning for the recommendation. Narrative and outline formats.

Refinement of Recommendation(s)

TSC Recommendation(s) to Selectboard:

Submission Date:

Selectboard Feedback/Comments:

Revision History

If TSC or Selectboard respond with revisions, please track below to ensure that everyone is up to date.

Name	Description	Date