

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)

Legal authority - very general, per [31 V.S.A. Chapter 5](#) (allows a department or board, limits free music funding, no specific definition)

Known common or organized recreational (leisure) activities (including arts, but non-commercial focus)

- Hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking
- Swimming (Joes Pond Beach)
- Little League
- NDCC: Cribbage, events
- LVRT: walking, biking, horseriding, snowmobiling
- Running Club (is currently Tues. 6pm)
- Croquet
- Community Gardens
- Music/Dance/Drama Program (Town Hall)
- Chamber: Bear Crawl 5K, Movie Nights on the Green, Holiday Stroll, Trunk or Treat, Ice rink, *Danville Fair, Autumn on the Green*
- *Danville Farmers Market*

Town facilities that might be covered ([TSC25 Town Properties](#))

- Hill St Park and Gazebo
- Town Green and Bandstand
- Town Hall
- Route 2 - Upper Drive Right-Of-Way
- *Greenbanks Hollow Park*
- *Otis Bricket Park (covered bridge)*
- *Joes Pond Beach*
- *North Danville Community Center*
- *Dog Park*
- *Danville School Fields and Shed*
- *Town Athletic Fields*
- *Rail Trail / Athletic Fields Parking*
- *Rodgers Town Forest*
- *Pumpkin Hill Town Forest*

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)

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- Barre City (Recreation Coordinator)
- Montpelier (Recreation Dept)
- Lyndonville Recreation, Parks, Seasonal Events (collaborations, volunteers)
- Brighton Recreation (Town staff, volunteers)
- 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 and School/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 Director: 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
 - Risks individual priorities diverging from general public desires
 - Would not be a public body (easy to do work but must work transparently)
2. Charter Recreation Board: establish a standing public body to conduct recreation activities
 - Set 5-9 members (odd number such that some can meet without triggering quorum)
 - Off-loads workload and energy for recreation to motivated committee members
 - Encourages residents to join local government and potentially volunteer for other positions
 - Risks committee priorities diverging from general public sentiment
 - 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

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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

| Criteria <i>(compared to current system: + better, 0 same, - worse)</i> | Recreation Director | Recreation Board |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Coordination (for existing and newly proposed activities) | + | 0 |
| Advertising (for activities) | 0 | + |
| Development (of new activities as an official/body) | - | + |
| Encouragement of community feedback (handle comments on activities) | 0 | + |
| Participation (of community in development and coordination process) | 0 | + |
| Responsiveness (ability to work and make recommendations quickly) | + | 0 |
| Continuity over time | - | + |

Selection – Refinement and Recommendation

The Selectboard should delegate authority for advising, coordinating, and advertising recreational activities using Town of Danville facilities, with a small budget for future years, to encourage residents to make use of recreational resources and participate in local governance of them:

- Option 1: to a Recreation Director, who may appoint an assistant and solicit volunteer support as needed (can work faster than a group)
- Option 2: to a 5-7 member Recreation Board, with staggered 3-year terms, which as a public body must hold open meetings but can solicit additional volunteers and create committees as needed (involves more people and can share workload better than an individual)

Either Director or Board would be able to process recreation-related actions in accordance with Town policies (to be determined) but would bring recommendations to the Selectboard for decision-making.

TSC Recommendation(s) to Selectboard: **As above, plus draft Charter and Policy for July.**

Submission Date:

Selectboard Feedback/Comments:

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Revision History

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

| Name | Description | Date |
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