

**Parks Committee Meeting**  
**February 8, 2016 – 7pm, Seymour Library**

**Present:**

Linda Ketchum, Joe Blosenhauer, Barbara Blosenhauer, John La Pierre, Annie Crane, Kristin Stiles, Sandi Henschel

**Not Present:**

Hanny Heyen, Losh Spalla, Karen Agostinelli, Lynda Cochran

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes from the December meeting were approved by the members present.

Updates:

- *Brochure pricing for design and printing (Karen A.).*

Karen is working on this.

- *Grant opportunities for signage (Lynda C.).*

Lynda C. was not here to report. Linda K. will send her the information about the Village grant consultants, J. O'Connell and Associates. John L. will send Linda a link and contact information.

- *Budget for 2016 (John L., Annie C.)*

The parks equipment line remains at \$8,500.

Maintenance Supplies remains at \$4,000.

Other lines remain totaling \$4,400 (repairs, gardening, misc., etc.).

John reminded us that, in a year where budget totals have to have less than 0.12% increase, absorbing labor costs, insurance costs means cutting where possible. Parks has no cuts [at this moment of the budget process].

- *South Avenue Update:*

The DPW has taken down the 2 black walnut trees and the playground equipment will be installed shortly.

- *Corbett Park items in 5-year plan (Linda, Kristin).*

Linda K. went over the things that were to be done at Corbett, but haven't yet been done. All are dependent upon the budget and the DPW's time constraints.

- *Village Code revisions concerning Parks (Hanny, Sandi, Art Appleby).*

The rules have to have consequences so they need to be revised. Amounts [fines/financial penalties] need to be put in for those changes. Hopefully, the language will be added by the time the Village Board revisits the Parks Code section in March.

**New Business:**

- *New boathouse to be built in Corbett Park (Mayor Blackman).*

“The Brockport Rowing and Canal Development Project is the first phase of a larger plan to develop recreational and competitive rowing programs in the Village and along the western section of the Erie Canal.” From- *Village of Brockport Rowing and Boathouse project.*

Many groups have expressed interest and commitment to establishing a college rowing program to utilize the 100 mile stretch of canal from Buffalo to Rochester.

The Boathouse will be built on the grounds near the canal in back of Corbett. It will be in widest area of grass at the top of the hill, next to the canal. The location appears to be the sledding area, but that remains to be seen. It’s the longest straight stretch on the canal. There will be a key-padlock from Brockport Rowing. – [See **information at the end of these minutes.**]

- *Winter Special Event in Corbett. (Joe, Barb, Lynda)*

The winter special event in Corbett is not going to happen due to strange weather this winter and limited snow. Instead we’re going to plan a Summer Event in Corbett Park to coincide with National Park and Recreation Month in July. <http://www.nrpa.org/july/> Some suggestions included a Neighborhood BBQ; Family-style picnic; games-3-legged race; sack races; basketball games like HORSE and Around the World; etc.

- *New swing set for Corbett Park.*

The question was raised whether or not a grant from BISCO is a possibility? BISCO’s website has a contact us page: <http://brockportartsfestival.com/contact.html> Linda will check with BISCO to see if there’s a grant to cover the cost of a new swing set.

- *Any other concerns or ideas?*

1. Monika’s park needs mulch.
2. The Blosenhauers are working with community service people who will work on beautifying the North side of the canal.
3. It was agreed that since there was no Winter Event this year, we would not meet again until April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting:  
April 11, 2016  
Library 7PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandi Henschel  
Secretary,  
Parks Committee

## *Village of Brockport Rowing and Boathouse project.*

### *What is the project?*

The Brockport Rowing and Canal Development Project is the first phase of a larger plan to develop recreational and competitive rowing programs in the Village and along the western section of the Erie Canal. Development will include construction in Corbett Park of a metal sided and roofed boathouse<sup>1</sup> to house rowing shells as well as boat and oar racks. Additionally, the Village will attach a permanent floating dock and ramp appropriate for rowing to the north bank of the Canal. Finally, the project involves purchase of a used 4 shell (4 person boat), wakeless launch boat and engine, oars, a cox box, and megaphone to support rowing activities. While many areas on the east side of Rochester have rowing programs, including Pittsford, Fairport, Brighton, McQuaid Jesuit, and Our Lady of Mercy School, there are no rowing facilities along the 100 mile stretch of Canal from Buffalo to Rochester. Brockport is an ideal location in which to establish rowing as a sport. SUNY Brockport does not have rowing, but there is interest in rowing amongst students, faculty, and staff. Campus Recreation, Athletics, and the Dean of the School of Health and Human Performance and the Department of Kinesiology, Sports Studies, and Physical Education (KSSPE) have all expressed a commitment to establishing a college rowing program.

Completion of this project will allow the Village to continue development of Canal-related activities and attractions, which are integral to its economic development goals related to Canal tourism.

### *How will it be funded?*

The village has received \$75,000 from the NYS Canal Corporation through the NYS Consolidated Funding Program, and has applied to the 2016-17 State and Municipal

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<sup>1</sup> The original request and canalway funding was for a 30 X 80 open boat shed, to be secured by a chain link fence.

Facilities Capital Program through Senator Robert Ortt for an additional \$50,000 to enlarge and fully enclose the boat building.

The project has received matching funds in the form of donation of an “Eight” rowing shell and oars, \$3000 each year for the next three years from BISCO, and funds raised each year to bring rowing to Brockport from the Low Bridge High Water craft beer event.

Labor for construction of the boathouse and dock will be provided in-kind by Brockport’s DPW.

*Is taxpayer \$ involved?*

No taxpayer dollars are included in the project. As noted in the Canalway grant application, “grant funding is sought because placing an additional burden on taxpayers for the purposes of this project is not an option at this time.”

*What size is the boathouse and where will it go?*

The Boathouse will be 47’ X 80’, built on a cement pad, with electric lights, no heat, similar in appearance and size to the attached photo of the Andrew Lennox and David and Ilene Falum boathouse at Pittsford. It will be placed in the long grassy corridor at the west end of Corbett Park close to the canal (see attached photo)

*What is the proposed time frame for the project?*

Anticipated Award – December 2015 □

Executed Contract – March-April 2016 □

Design – May-September 2016 □

Construction Phase I, Clearing & Site Work – August-October 2016

Construction Phase II, Cement Pad, Shed, Dock – April-August 2017

Equipment Purchases – August-September 2017 □

Filing of grant paperwork, closeout information – September-October 2017

Completion – November-December 2017

*What is involved in getting rowing started in Brockport?*

Genesse Rowing has offered to help us in creating an organization similar to theirs, a 501C3 with charter and bylaws that would be called Brockport Rowing. We have compiled a list of more than 30 people who have expressed interest in being part of

this effort and we welcome more interested participants. We will begin this effort in the spring of 2016, as having a rowing organization is essential to overseeing the equipment, covering liability, organizing training, etc. This group would include members from the community, BCSD, and college.

*Who will be responsible for its contents/equipment?*

Brockport Rowing

*Who will have access to the boathouse?*

Access would be by keypad lock and through permission of Brockport Rowing (see attached photo from Pittsford)

*What kind of maintenance will the boathouse require and who is responsible for it?*

Due to the type of siding and roofing, maintenance will be minimal. Brockport Rowing would be responsible for the upkeep of the interior of the building, Brockport DPW for repairs and exterior maintenance.

*What benefits does this project bring to Corbett Park, to the village?*

A section of the Canal just west of Corbett Park has a 2,000 meter straight stretch that is ideal for sprint races. This project has generated interest from The College at Brockport and the Brockport Central School District. The Department of Kinesiology Sport Studies and Physical Education at the College is interested in offering rowing as both an elective for any student and as a course for majors in Adaptive Physical Education. Lifetime Assistance is one target audience for adaptive rowing. Rowing facilities will also support economic stimulus by allowing the Village to host events such as the Pittsford Paddle & Pour, which includes an arts and music festival, craft beer and wine tasting, and a regatta.

Rowing is an excellent choice for staying active and having a local rowing facility will greatly contribute to the health and quality of life of the Brockport community. It is a full-body, low-impact activity that an individual can participate in, or join other rowers as part of a team. While Brockport has an ideal water resource in the Canal, it lacks the facilities to start a rowing program. Currently, the closest rowing facility and program is the Genesee Rowing Club in the City of Rochester.

