

Pines Park Committee

Pines Park is approximately 7.5 acre Town Park located off of Park Street between Dearborn Avenue, Summer Street and exit 19 off of Interstate 93. The Park is divided into three separate sections.

- Section #1 - is 4.62 acres and features the Police station, horse rink with bleachers and announcers' booth. Also included is a baseball field with bleachers, dugouts, and a concession stand and announcer's booth. There is also a picnic shelter with access to an outside water faucet
- Section #2 - is 2.44 acres and features a community center, basketball court, volleyball court playground, paved parking area with lighting.
- Section #3- is 0.60 acres and is undeveloped.

Issues - The Northfield Selectmen have been concerned with the health and safety of the 125 or so mature White Pines that are nearing the end of their life cycle and there have been discussions on how to keep Pines Park safe for everyone's benefit and use.

There have been 4 studies of the health and safety of the pine trees over the last 30 years. A study was done in 1996 by the Merrimack County UNH Cooperative Extension. A second study was done in 2018 by Tree Solutions in Meredith NH and most recently by the Merrimack County UNH Cooperative Extension Forester 25 years later. The Selectmen also decided to have an unbiased study done by a Tree Arborist so they hired Lovering Tree Care out of Moultonborough NH.

In 2020 the Northfield Board of Selectmen had decided to cut and eliminate any Pine Tree that could reach a road, structure, parking lot or power line. Once the latest study by Lovering Tree Care was completed the trees were identified on a map and a tree cutting service was called in to eliminate approx. 85 trees that were either unhealthy, could reach a road, a structure or power lines, or were a danger to the surrounding environment. At this time all the trees have been eliminated that are a danger and all stumps have been removed. The area known as Pines Park is now ready for the next step which is what the Town of Northfield wants for this Park?

The Town Selectmen would like a study committee to be formed and from this committee to formulate a plan in what would be the best use for Pines Park now and in the future. The plan should contain steps, timelines as well as costs associated with creating and preserving Pines Park into a place of use for all residents of Northfield now and into the future. This plan will be brought before the Selectmen and presented at a future meeting for their input. The Northfield Board of Selectmen will have the final approval for any and all plans for Pines Park.

Committee Formation

The Selectmen are in favor of having a special committee formed to study the area known as Pines Park. The makeup of this committee should be a small group of residents with no more than 5 members that should also include a representative chosen by the Selectmen to lead the first meeting for the committee. The Committee should take into consideration the costs of rebuilding the park which should have little to no impact on the taxpayers.

The Committee should have a makeup of the following residents- Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. Also; considerations should be given to those residents who have experience in Engineering, Landscaping, Construction as well as Planning. If possible a representative from the Tilton Northfield Recreation Council should also be a member of the committee as they utilize the Park area more frequently and are the highest users of the Park. The Committee should focus on a shortened timeline as this area is used for the annual Tilton-Northfield Old Home Days held at the end of June each year.

The mission of the Pines Park Committee should be the following

- Develop an assessment of need for this park area.
- Develop a plan for a park (building costs, operations, security, and future maintenance costs).
- Develop a timeline for implementation.
- Develop a final plan for presentation and review by the Northfield Board of Selectmen.

Meetings- Within the first meeting of formation the committee shall establish a meeting schedule which shall include a regular meeting day and times as well as the frequency of meetings. This shall be published in the weekly emailed news blast on Fridays from Town Hall.

Because the Committee has been appointed by the Selectmen all committee meetings are subject to the 91A provisions law. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the meetings are conducted in a manner consistent with the 91A law. Each meeting shall be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting in two public places one of which may be the Towns website, with a meeting place and time indicated. All meetings shall be open to the public and minutes of the meetings shall be taken and made available within 5 business days of the meeting. Minutes posted or published may be in draft form depending on the frequency of the meetings.

A quorum of regular members shall constitute a meeting of the committee. Each member shall have one vote.

Members of the Committee must attend all meetings, any members who miss more than 2 meetings are deemed to have resigned.

The Committee Clerk shall be responsible for ensuring that the minutes of all meetings are kept in accordance with NH RSA 91A law.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on October 19, 2021

Kevin Waldron
Mark Hubbell