VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE
INC. 1892
PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Parks & Trails Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Wednesday October 21, 2026
Village Boardroom, Harrietstown Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Present: Peter Waldt, Julianne Stemp, Ren Davidson Seward, Ali Brunner, Mary Glynn, Mary Thill, Steve Langdon, Stacey Allott. Saranac Lake Parks Manager Richie Hewitt, Village Trustee Sean Ryan.

6:04 p.m. meeting called to order by Steve Langdon

Approve September 2026 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Stacey, second by Julianne

Governance:

Board chair: Steve nominated Jimmy Cunningham to replace Colleen O'Neill as board chair (Colleen stepped down mid-term in July). Since Jimmy was not present, Steve will follow through with Jimmy between meetings to confirm his acceptance. If Jimmy can't serve as chair Steve volunteered to serve. Second by Julianne.

Vice chair: Peter nominated Steve to serve as vice chair, second by Ren

Ren and Mary Glynn, who joined PTAB in September 2026, will complete sexual harassment training

November meeting will re-focus on PTAB assignments and processes.

Old Business

Park updates

Riverside Park: Richie reported docks need replacement in time for 2027 installation.

Riverwalk: New wayfinding signage picked up and ready for installation when time allows.

Mount Pisgah: Parks staff focus is turning to Pisgah as winter approaches. Richie built a new 450 SF pumphouse, now looking for spray foamer to insulate it. Pisgah will definitely be able to make snow this winter, likely running three guns. It has been challenging to design, buy and install new snowmaking infrastructure, but Richie is pleased with progress. There is a new pump by the pond and a booster pump upslope. Staff have been working with a contract specialist to get water lines up the hill. Now trying to get an electrician to hook up power for the season. The snowmaking system should last 30-40 years with capacity up to nine guns. Staff hope snowmaking volunteers will continue. All will have to learn how to use new system. Staff still working on making tubing hill more reliable. Parks has fewer staff than previous years. Hiring Pisgah attendants soon.

Pisgah mountain biking: New connector trail from Trudeau Village is underway, could be rideable in two weeks. Julianne will open lines of communications between Richie and the mountain biking community to coordinate trail plans. Mountain bikers tell Richie Pisgah is a hidden gem.

Ward Plumadore Park: Tables and chairs are now in place on the upper patio.

Baldwin Park: Demolition and renovation work will not start this fall, likely in 2027

Skatepark: Steve will reach out to Skatepark founders Rich Shapiro and Lindy Ellis for clarity re oversight. Fencing between park and bank has been fixed for safety. Signage currently says skateboards only but sign is ignored. PTAB recommends simple sign stating: Use at own risk / No electric vehicles. Observers encouraged to call police to enforce prohibition on electric scooters. A friends community around the Skatepark and community events might improve visibility, safety.

Ren reported main discussion at Coffee with a Cop was electric bikes/scooters/rail trail role.

Berkeley Green: Richie installing two more murals at bathrooms by local artist Amy Ludlow. The bathrooms are now closed; will be open for Trick or Treating, Sparkle Village, and Winter Carnival.

Ken Garwood POW Park: Unclear status new accessible entrance and playground equipment plans

Bike storage shed in “Sears” lot: No update

Richie will be working to get downtown hanging baskets and planter pots removed for winter.

If PTAB members see any park-related needs let Richie know so they can be addressed.

Adjourn 7:18 p.m. Motion by Peter, Mary Glynn second