

MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Chairman Warren Watson called the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

Board Members Present: Chairman Warren Watson; Vice-Chairman Lynn Cromer; Secretary-Treasurer Rick Covil; and Stephen Nelon

Board Members Absent: Steve Sloan

Staff Present: Brad Gordon, Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier,

Approve Minutes from August 21, 2025 regular meeting

The Minutes from the August 21, 2025 regular meeting were not available and approval was postponed to the September 18, 2025 meeting.

Approve Financial Report for August 2025

The August 2025 Harmon Field financial report was not available and approval was postponed to the September 18, 2025 meeting.

Park Status Update/Park Superintendent Report

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon briefly went over his printed report for September 2, 2025.

Helene Storm Damage Recovery Update

- The "Welcome to Harmon Field" track sign at the small bathroom parking lot was installed
- The horseshoe pits were cleaned and fixed with new backboards.
- The river soccer field was sprayed and the fence reinstalled. Waiting on contractor to grade and install sod.
- Baseball field A (Dallara Field) repairs began on 8/25/2025
- All of the paved walking path along the river was now open, except the area behind the playground. Gordon had spoken to two paving contractors to get quotes.
- Gym Room Project contractor Derek Champion would be restoring the external walls of the gym room to look okay.

Supervisor Report

- With Harmon Field mostly open to visitors, Gordon requested that the Board allow rentals of the small picnic shelter near the playground and the covered area at the concession stand for events. The covered area at the concession stand would have its own private bathroom for renters. Covil made a motion to resume taking rentals for the small open-sided picnic shelter and the covered area at the concession stand at the same rate for each of these facilities as previously charged for the small shelter. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Currently the concession stand had one public restroom and the remaining bathroom was converted into a storage/cleaning room for the concession stand kitchen. Nelon asked if the concession stand storage/cleaning room could be restored as a separate bathroom so there would be two separate bathrooms for men and women. Gordon stated that adding more bathrooms at the concession stand was being considered. There could be ADA access issues. Nelon offered to get fixtures to restore the second restroom or fixtures could be relocated from the field house building to the concession stand.

- Staff would be working on grading and installing dirt along the edges of the open-air gym this week to eliminate the trip hazard when basketballs go off the court. Board members commented that the edges of the concrete pad of the gym had ongoing roof drainage erosion issues. Gordon planned to work on guttering options and extending downspout pipes to a nearby rain garden drain.
- In September the Annual Walk Remembrance was scheduled for the Harmon Field oval track on September 20, 2025 and a one-year Anniversary of Tropical Storm Helene Community Remembrance event was scheduled for the open-air gym on September 27, 2025. Someone was planning to do drone footage of the storm damaged areas one year later to include in the remembrance events throughout the county.
- Gordon was working on a food truck list to schedule for providing food concessions for Harmon Field.

Other

- **Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association (BRHJA) Formal Request Letter** – BRHJA President Lee Cone read a letter from the BRHJA in support of full restoration of the Harmon Field equestrian facility with all rings and stables needed for multi-day events required for financial feasibility of the facility operations. The letter included proposal to move multi-day BRJHA, Harmon Classics and Progressive Show Jumping shows to Harmon Field if the facility could be fully restored to safety standards for this level of show. The letter also included a request to rent the Harmon Field equestrian facility's existing rings and two restored barns for a BRHJA horseshow from October 24-27, 2025. BRHJA would need facility confirmation very to market the show or they would have to find another location. Cone and Pack offered to check the facilities for safety hazards to be fixed before the proposed event. Gordon recommended to set up a meeting with Town Manager Fatland, Gordon, Chairman Watson as the Harmon Field Board representative and BRHJA President Cone to discuss the BRHJA rental request before the September 18, 2025 meeting to determine the feasible response to the BRHJA rental request. Dates proposed for the meeting were Monday, Sept 8 or Tues Sept 9, 2025 at 6 pm. Chairman Watson stated that the meeting would determine if it would be possible for the Harmon Field facility to be ready for this event. Gordon reported that one of the small rings had new fencing, but the other small ring and the large ring fencing was dangerous. Refencing the other two rings would cost \$20,000 to replace the fence in time for the proposed October 2025 horseshow. Harmon Field Board members scheduled a public site visit with Gordon, Lewis Pack, Lee Cone and any interested parties to look over the current conditions at the equestrian facility for Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm to start from the concession stand shelter.
- **Sponsorship Markers** – Current permanent sponsor markers were discussed briefly. Gordon planned to reach out to past donors over the winter season to see if any of the past donor organizations wished to provide continuing support for Harmon Field facilities. Concrete marker at the playground was obsolete since the playground had been renovated and then destroyed by the flood without ongoing support from the original donor, Thermal Belt Rotary Club. Removal of the obsolete marker was suggested if ongoing support not renewed.
- **Fieldhouse Bathrooms** – Steve King asked if the fieldhouse bathrooms would be torn down. Gordon responded that the building would be converted to storage only with no electrical and no bathrooms.

- **Paved Walking Trail Extension** – Steve King asked if the paved walking trail would be extended to go all the way around Harmon Field. Gordon clarified that the approved Master Plan included extending the path from the end at the Presbyterian Church behind the community center building to the open-air gym. Gordon hoped to begin staking out the route for the extension soon.
- **Tennis Courts** – Chairman Watson asked for an update on tennis court reconfiguration. Gordon had contacted Jay Lichty at Saluda School tennis facility about how they shared courts between tennis and pickleball. Based on research, Gordon recommended converting tennis court #3 to use for tennis or one pickleball court using the same net for both. This would provide 2 dedicated courts each for tennis and pickleball with tennis court #3 serving as a third court for either tennis or pickleball as needed using the same net and different colored court markings for each use. It was agreed that the tennis courts facility really needed a total renovation if funding could be found.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025, 6:00 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

Adjourn

Covil made a motion to adjourn. Cromer seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

Submitted By:

Approved:



**Rick Covil
Secretary-Treasurer**



**Warren Watson
Chairman**