

\$80,000 skate park project pleases athletes on wheels

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PLYMOUTH — When Linda Kazmierski originally joined the Skate Park Committee it was to fight against the idea of having a town skate park. Too many potential problems, she thought.

“But the more I listened and got used to it the more I decided I can’t wait to get one here,” she said. “Now I’m really glad it’s done, and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

Kazmierski was among those present for the skate park’s official opening Thursday afternoon behind Town Hall. The town has actually allowed skateboarders to use the park since last spring when most of the work was completed.

“We had a mission to provide a safe area to ride in, and we fulfilled that mission with the help of local individuals and organizations and foundations, from within town and outside of town,” said Martin Sandshaw, committee chairman.

Sandshaw said the total project cost about \$80,000, with \$71,000 coming from LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) state funds and \$9,000 from T-shirt sales.

He said the idea for a skate park plan has been around for about 15 years but it was only in 2012 that it began to take shape.

Hall Surveyors provided the site work and mapping at no charge; Public Works provided fill, equipment and employees who came in on their own time to bring in the fill and oversee the project; and Connecticut Lions Club past district governor Len Johnson put in hours and hours of volunteer work, Sandshaw said.

Richards Corp., GH Kelly Corp., and Pete & Steve Construction also helped, and financial assistance came from the Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, the Main Street Community Foundation, CWPM, the Plymouth Local Prevention Council, the Terryville Lions Club, along with a number of other individuals, businesses and civic organizations, he added.

“Our town should be very proud of what we brought together with this project,” Sandshaw said. “It was truly a town project. It’s not something that had to be done, it’s something that we wanted to do, and we accomplished it.”

In addition to Sandshaw and Tom Kazmierski, the committee consisted of Lisa Aiudi, Jolene Dutkiewicz, Paul Ganesini, Anthony Orsini, Kevin Sulek and Peter Worhunsky.



Skate Park

10/8/2015 Mike Orazzi | Staff Bailey Schuster while at the town's skate park during the appreciation ceremony behind town hall on Thursday afternoon.

“This committee brought the whole community together, solicited donations and put together a plan until you see what we have here today,” Zagurski said, calling the new skate park “a gem in our community.”

Dutkiewicz said she was very happy to see the project come to fruition, although as school nurse at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School she is always concerned for the skateboarding youngsters’ safety.

“I wish every single one wore helmets, we encourage it but we can’t enforce it,” she said. “But so far they’ve been skateboarding here all summer and we really haven’t heard of any injuries. They go down and they bounce right back up.”

“It’s really nice. It gets all my group of friends here and it keeps kids off the streets,” said Trinity Fontaine, a Terryville High School 10th grader who said she was learning to skateboard. She was one of about two dozen young people at the opening.

“It’s nice for little kids and kids my age but people wanted to know if we were going to make it bigger because with all these kids here it’s just cramped,” commented THS ninth grader Steven Driscoll.

Dutkiewicz said the committee didn’t have a big budget to work with but the park could be expanded in the future.

Sandshaw said a half-pipe-style bowl could eventually be added in the middle of the triangular park. “It’s on the radar screen but not imminent,” he said.

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