

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY**  
**SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**DHDC CHSW-COMMUNITY PLACEMAKING GRANT FOR MARTIN SUTTON PARK**



The Commissioners of Ridgely met on the above date at 6:00 pm in the town hall for a special meeting about the DHDC CHSW-Community Placemaking grant for Martin Sutton Park. The following were in attendance: President Leonard John Buckle, Commissioner Brad Sears, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Operations David Crist, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer/Zoning Administrator Melissa Leonard, Sgt. Keith Collison, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Kelly Buckle, Lakeria Pierce, Patrice Flamer, Scott Barron, Sandra Pitts, Norma Robinson, Chad Leister, Leroy Harris, Holly Justice.

President Buckle opened the meeting.

Lakeria Pierce discussed the application and award letter for the Martin Sutton Park grant that she received on Sunday. The grant amount is for \$99,000. Her plan is to use the funding for a 2–7-year-old play area and basketball court, fencing, equipment and mural projects.

There was a discussion about the location and type of fence that she was wanting to place. The fence would enclose the playground, and the type would be up to the community based on the budget. David Crist asked that they stay away from vinyl. The vinyl on the gazebo is vandalized regularly. We will need to check on the height and fall radius with the insurance company.

There was a discussion on the location of the basketball court/play area, with hopes that it will go near the existing basketball court and pavilion. Water concerns will need to be addressed before a final decision is made. David suggested using Burke Equipment for the new equipment.

Scott Barron suggested using a picket fence for the play area and offered to engrave the pickets as a fund raiser.

Lakeria Pierce said that the funds will need to be expended by December 2025 and that an engineering study is not a requirement. David Crist suggested the work be put out for bidding.

Stephanie Berkey asked to be provided all copies of invoices and costs for insurance and audit purposes.

Spirit & Mind would like to have a meeting once a month with the town and community for input and updates on the project. The meetings are to get a vision of what the community wants.

Commissioner Sears recommended that the plans are reviewed by a playground consultant.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie L. Berkey, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer