

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

September 10, 2020

2 pm

Present: BZ Reilly, Christine Robinson and Christine Marglin

Also present: Pending members Barbara Bigelow, Elaine Puleo

BZ called the meeting to order at 2pm.

Agenda

Discussion of first steps in the creation of a community garden project.

BZ proposed that we create a short survey to assess interest among Shutesbury residents in taking part in a community garden. The survey would be emailed to all residents receiving town announcements and would also be included in the next, Fall, addition of the Our Town newsletter that will be mailed to those not receiving emails, in addition to being emailed to other residents.

It was agreed that Christine M would write up a draft of the survey based upon our conversation today. After discussing and incorporating our edits at our next meeting, the survey will be sent to Town Clerk Grace Bannasch for inclusion in Our Town, and Elaine will send it out to residents through Survey Monkey.

Elaine will bring the community garden idea for possible funding to the Community Preservation Committee at their next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 30 at 2 pm.

BZ concluded the meeting at 2:35 pm.

For first draft of survey, please see below.

DRAFT #1 Town Survey for community gardens 9/10/2020

NOTE: two things we didn't discuss: is this an anonymous survey? Do we say that this is to gauge interest only, and does not constitute a commitment? That seems obvious to me, especially if this is anonymous, but thought it worth mentioning. I also don't know what contact info to include, as you'll see below.

Community Gardens, Anyone?

Have you always wanted a garden but lack a sunny plot? Or don't have the space? Maybe you just don't like to garden alone. Or maybe you don't relish the thought of hauling the huge stones Shutesbury land is famous for?

The Shutesbury Recreation Committee is considering the installation of a community garden for next spring. Gardening is healthy outdoor activity for all ages. It brings people together, promotes sustainability and intergenerational recreation, and can be done safely in Covid times like these. It's also a great learning tool for families.

We are asking Town residents who might be interested in participating to please fill out this brief survey so that we can get your feedback. Many thanks!

1. Would you be interested in having a plot in a Shutesbury town garden?
2. What would be your preferred location, in order of preference from one to four: Town Hall; Shutesbury Elementary School; Lot 032 (the open space across from the Highway Department on Leverett Road); behind Fire Station.
3. Would you prefer the gardens be organic, or open to use of chemical fertilizers?
4. There are costs for creating and maintaining community gardens. Would you be able and willing to pay an annual fee, probably assessed on a sliding scale between \$25 and \$100? Community gardens also typically ask participants to contribute a small amount of work toward maintaining the site as a whole, perhaps as little as two hours per year; is this something you would do?
5. We welcome your questions and comments! Please contact us at: BZ???