

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

December 2, 2020

1:30 pm

Present: BZ Reilly, Christine Marglin, Barbara Bigelow, Elaine Puleo, Christine Robinson

BZ called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Agenda

- 1: Approve Minutes from previous meeting
- 2: Discuss garden project
- 3: Other items unanticipated by chair

Minutes from last meeting approved.

The CPC application is due Friday, is done and we are finalizing it today. It was decided by BZ and Elaine after a select board meeting they attended to ask for \$20,000 as there are a lot of hoops we will have to jump through to create a community garden, and these will require ample funds. (Proposal below)

At the SB meeting, the idea was generally liked, Becky had a lot of concerns. Elaine walked the property behind town hall with Becky. The front part of grassy area should be preserved for outdoor meetings. We have 20 acres there, quite a bit of it forested. The southeast corner is a large area, almost the size of football field, flat, may have poison ivy, but could be plowed, fenced, made ready for gardening. There is no road to that corner for vehicles to travel, which is a concern. A road can't go on the other side because the well is there. Garden carts that people could walk with might be a solution. Another concern is the water. Michael Broad said he'd be willing to help with rain barrel collection run off solar panels. Water collection with spigots of the type used in Pelham are another possible solution. The gardens would need to be fenced, as gardens generally are, including deer netting. Another issue is who would want to garden in Shutesbury? Becky imagines anyone who wants a garden here already has one. However we have already ascertained that there is interest in town in a community garden. Another issue: the folks in Pelham realized they needed a

revolving fund. Elaine believed the recreation budget might be utilized for funds generated by fees collected for the garden. Parking for the garden is another concern. All gardeners won't come at the same time so this won't necessarily be a problem. The parking area needs to be redone in any case. What if someone wants to grow marijuana? We can put into bylaws that marijuana won't be grown. Elaine tried to assuage Becky's fears about who would manage the garden. Rita sent BZ rules used by other towns in managing community gardens. We can use these as guidance in devising our rules this winter.

The select board is in favor of the garden, but the town has to approve the project. We will have to get the CPC approval first, beginning by submitting this form by Friday. Complete application before CPC's February 4 meeting. An open hearing of the CPC will be held, followed by a vote.

Christine M reported on conversation with Pelham community garden director. Christine R reported on her research into materials and costs for fencing. Barbara has also researched these costs and sent results in an email previously.

All financial needs for the garden must be researched and detailed. Any funding we receive will have to be used and accounted for as detailed.

Rita has suggested: Raised beds with metal frames would probably be best for garden plots, not wood because they degrade or chemically treated wood as that would break down and leak chemicals into soil. A revolving fund for each year for maintenance costs would cover yearly expenses.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 17 at 1:30 pm.
BZ concluded the meeting at 2:25 pm.

Application for funding from Elaine:

Town of Shutesbury

Community Preservation Committee

Determination of Eligibility

Submit: 8 paper copies to:

Community Preservation Committee
Shutesbury Town Hall
P.O. Box 276

Shutesbury, Massachusetts 01072

Submit: 1 electronic copy to:

Email: cpc@Shutesbury.org

This preliminary Determination of Eligibility form must be submitted to the CPC no later than December 4th for the project to be included on the warrant at the next Annual Town Meeting. A preliminary Determination of Eligibility form may be submitted at any time for an urgent request for CPA funds. If recommended for approval by the CPC, an urgent application may require a Special Town Meeting for approval.

Applicant Name: Recreation Committee

Applicant Organization: Shutesbury Recreation Committee

Address: recreation@shutesbury.org

Contact Person: BZ Reily

Phone: 413-259-1478. Or 413-687-3605

E-Mail: bzreily@gmail.com

CPA Category: You must check a minimum of one category, but may identify more than one if applicable to your project.

- **Open Space**
- **Historic Preservation**
- **Community Housing**

Recreation **X**

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Briefly describe your projects expected result: We propose funding the establishment of a community garden. This garden would be located on town property, be fenced in and have established garden plots available to be tended by town residents. The benefits to the community of such a project are immense and varied. Having a garden plot provides recreation and exercise and promotes healthy lifestyles. It teaches children where their food comes from, how to grow food and have a sense of accomplishment for hard work. A well cared for community garden is ecstatically pleasing and reflects a pride in our community.

Briefly describe how your project will meet the eligibility criteria (as described in the Department of Revenue's allowable use of funds chart on page 4 of the Shutesbury Community Preservation Plan.) First, a community garden would come under the criteria of **create**. We would have to establish the garden by delineating plots, erecting fencing and locating a water source.

Second, a community garden would **rehabilitate** land that the town currently owns (site to be determined) which is currently underutilized.

