

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

May 4, 2021

4 pm

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

Barbara called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm

Agenda:

Approval of minutes from March 23, 2021

Community Garden project plans: questions we may need to address at Town Meeting

Assuming we are funded, collaborating with other groups

Questions may be raised about whether there will be enough water for gardens at the site behind town hall. The fire department will need to come and refill as needed, which they appear to be amenable to doing.

We need to go and stake out the garden plots, and be able to demonstrate to people where the gardens will be made. The warrant article will have information about the garden, including CPC-approved grant. We can make sure the area is mowed before town meeting, as it likely will be. BZ will make decorative pole markers to show approximately where the gardens will go.

We will need a spokesperson to address questions raised during meeting. We will create rules and bylaws later on. We can have fall workdays and encourage people to be part of the process of clearing land and creating the gardens.

Labor costs projected (\$8000) may be unnecessary or over-estimated, at least the first year, if we are able to do all or much of the work through volunteer efforts. We may need a garden manager/coordinator the first year. We may need to pay someone for post holes, for example.

We will need to keep track of all funds, as CPC has previously funded projects that never happened. We will create a contract in collaboration with CPC. The

contract period is negotiable, likely to be about three years. We can also go back to CPC and ask for more funds in future.

Collaboration with other groups: Nuestras Raices, Seeds of Solidarity Farm, Greater Quabbin Food Alliance; may need to wait until second year, after gardens are established. We're committed to working with other community groups after our gardens are established.

Town meeting is Saturday, June 12

Older initiatives Barbara notes from past meeting notes: trail mapping and repair cafes. We may want to consider taking up these projects. There are other groups involved with mapping and the recycle committee might be interested in repair cafes.

Barbara brought the meeting to a close at 4:50pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 1 at 5pm.

Agenda for next meeting: planning for the garden before Town Meeting June 5.