

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2021
7PM, Zoom

Present: Barbara Bigelow, BZ Reilly, Christine Robinson, Christine Marglin
Absent: Elaine Puleo
Guest: Ann Bingham

Meeting begun at 4:08pm

Agenda:

Approval of last minutes : minutes approved

Ann, a Shutesbury resident of about six years joined us as she is interested in the garden project and connections to issues of food insecurity and the larger potential of the community garden, as well as other recreational possibilities. Ann is a possible future member of the committee.

Discussion of community garden rules and agreements

Pavilion for new library

Newsletter announcement

New ideas

Library pavilion: would we cosponsor this for the new library? It is not eligible for the funding the library had hoped for, so this can't be pursued at this time.

The garden is on hold until a decision is made about the library and where a new library will be built. The garden can't be operational until spring of 2023 at this point. The grant funding for the library is being held for us for the time being.

We can meanwhile come up with guidelines for garden participation, based in part upon agreements from neighboring towns. These existing guidelines have had additions out in place as problems arose, so we can learn from these mistakes and create our own rules accordingly.

Our postponement should be announced to the town, and the reason for it. This can go in the town newsletter.

For Our Town, explain why the garden is delayed. Explain why we think it's a good idea since that question was arisen, as well. We can go back to our proposal and pull from there for that explanation. Barbara will draft this.

BZ saw a new library on Martha's Vineyard that was beautiful and that included an outdoor area, and will send us photos she took of it. We will want to have our garden near the new library if at all possible.

We discussed issues such as the benefits of food that can't be harvested by the gardener who planted it being donated; and privately owned vs. community garden-owned tools for use.

We may try to put something into every newsletter about the garden, or related to gardening, such as gardening tips.

There is also the new Janowitz land that is now part of the Kestrel Trust and available for hiking. BZ may want to schedule a hike there open to town residents.

Possible one time events Ann is thinking about: cross country skiing workshop for beginners, possibly leading to a group. Fern walk led by someone for the library might be something to recreate, a walk about native plants, rock formations, etc. events that are social and also allow people to learn more about the outdoors in Shutesbury. Birding and mushrooming are also things that could be led by town residents. Snow shoeing also possible.

We can try to go forward with some of these wintertime things in January or beyond. Walking around the pond could happen sooner.

An item in the paper today mentioned that there are no accessible trails in the Northampton area. Could accessible trails be made in Shutesbury, or existing trails be made accessible?

Barbara will ask the library if they would like to get involved in possibly creating a lending library of snowshoes in the future, and in cohosting any one time events now.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 30 at 4 pm.