

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2021  
4PM, Zoom

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

Meeting begun at 4:00

Approval of last minutes : minutes approved

#### Agenda for November 16 meeting

1. Discuss location of community garden in light of proposed location of library
  - a. The proposed library will be located at Lot 0-32.
  - b. Create statement that expresses why we recommend moving the location of the garden to Lot 0-32. As a starting point:
    1. Combining community gardens with the library provides opportunities for community building through opportunities for educational programs for adults and children and enhanced outdoor space for recreation.
  - c. To be discussed and voted on is changing the location of the community gardens to Lot 0-32.
  - d. Next steps?
2. Kestrel Trust & Janowitz land.
  - a. Someone from the Kestrel Trust reached out to express interest in making paths in this area accessible.
  - b. Before responding to them, we need to discuss and vote on our level of support for this project.
  - c. Draft for discuss
  - d. The Recreation Committee supports Kestrel Trust's interest in creating accessible walkways in the Julian Janowitz property.
  - e. Next steps?
    1. If committee supports Kestrel Trust, contact them
    2. What action is required re: informing town of Recreation Committee's support?
3. Schedule walk of committee around Ames Pond.
  - a. Plan a time for the committee members to walk around the pond
  - b. Propose that we schedule walks (where best to post this?) with Recreation Committee member(s) taking interested people.
4. Use of current unused funds.
  - a. We have \$1000 to be spent by June 30 and another \$1000 allocated for the next FY

**Next Meeting will be as originally planned: Tuesday, 11/30 @ 4.**

Location of the garden. The select board and library trustees has made the decision to site the library at Lot O32, due to partaking concerns and the farmers' market.

We would like to have the library be contiguous with the garden, good synergy. Becky is concerned about the garden being near town hall, and Lot O32 would reduce that stress in town hall. We wouldn't have to have people carrying things to the far back of the town hall site, and we wouldn't need the water to be brought in to Lot O32. The land is also better. The garden would be more visible, and seen by everyone visiting the library. Parking is better as well. South Hadley community garden has a compost, would we could also have possibly, for use by anyone visiting the library whether or not they are involved in the garden. We could possibly have a lending library of tools available for garden users.

The community preservation committee will have to approve siting the garden at Lot O32 and delaying its creation. Barbara proposes:

If the construction of a new library at Lot 0-32 is approved and the funding received, the Recreation Committee proposes locating the Community Garden adjacent to the library.

Unanimously approved by the Rec Committee.

Janowitz land: Barbara asked Kestrel about creating accessible paths. Two people at Kestrel wrote back saying they were very happy we were thinking about accessible trails at the Janowitz land, which Barbara has not actually told them. CPC has been contacted by Kestrel asking if they will support this endeavor financially. Tax money and state money is available to CPC. Recreation projects have funds earmarked solely for them, and could be used for accessible trails. They need a town committee sponsor. On Monday they will attend a CPC meeting and propose this project, which will be voted on in December. It's a year long process which would end in a town wide vote at town meeting in the spring. Should we, the Rec Committee, be that sponsor?

The Shutesbury Recreation Committee agrees to be the Town Committee supporting the Kestrel Land Trust's request for CPA funds from the town of Shutesbury to support the restoration of and improvements to the Ames Pond trail network, including an accessible component.

Scheduled walk of committee around Ames Pond, and then further walks for others.

First walk: 2:45 November 30, meeting at Town Hall, driving together.

Budget for this year and next: We could purchase snow shoes and/or fishing poles to borrow, we could have speakers come talk about gardening, we could begin a compost project, or a day of cross country ski instruction. A day of orienteering in the spring is another idea. BZ suggests putting a sign up at Lot O32 announcing gardens coming soon.

Do we want to ask for more than \$1000, the amount of our budget as of now?

Adding an additional position to the committee: Two positions would have to be added, as the committee must be made up of an uneven number of members. To be voted on next meeting.

Meeting ended 4:52