

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2021
4PM, Zoom

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

Meeting begun at 4:00

Approval of last minutes : minutes approved

Agenda for November 30 meeting

- Discuss proposed activities:
 - for the remainder of FY 22 (we have not spent the \$1000 allocated for this year)
 - for FY 23 and agree on how much we will request given the ideas we've generated
- I received a copy of the 7-year Open Space and Recreation Plan from the Open Space Committee. There were several actions assigned to the Recreation Committee (see attached and scroll down to the highlighted sections). There will be a Public Forum [on December 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM](#) which I will plan to attend. I would like to have a discussion of the items with the committee.
 - If you are interested in attending the Public Forum:
 - You can register for the Forum here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wkAhP4_4SKSa488FZV13Aw
- Decide on increasing the size of the Recreation Committee from 5 to 7 members
- Schedule walks during December around Ames Pond.

Chris Valenti of Kestrel Trust has been invited to our next meeting.

Ann Brigham was unanimously voted in as a member of this august body.

Changing site of garden to Lot O32 to coordinate with library approved by CPC but will have to be officially changed at Town Meeting.

1) Recreation Ideas:

Everything listed in doc below, plus things we've done in the past, like supporting library classes, and the community garden.

Orienteering (markers out in the woods, shown on a map, you mark off on map as you find them). Compass and map use, can be done by teams, families, etc. Barbara and BZ interested

Geocaching, no interest at this time.

Dry stone wall building workshops, future.

Snowshoe lending library, expensive. Elaine, Ann interested. Ongoing. Seek donations. Cross country skies, too complicated and expensive.

Outing to central rock gym, or bouldering outside. Liability makes this too complicated.

Lending station for variety of tools for activities. Ongoing. Makes sense connected to garden. Brings up definition of recreation committee and whether activities such as music-making and art-making fit.

Christine R has spoken with Gateway Hockey in Springfield about acquiring used ice skates for Shutesbury families needing them. Christine will follow up.

Family track and field day. Elaine and Christine R will work on this. Also possible to initiate an ongoing time to run at the track.

Leading people on walks, native flower, mushrooms, invasion species, ferns. Hiring people to lead or arranging for a volunteer. Mary Ann has done this through the library. Barbara will check with her.

Restore field behind fire department. Once used for soccer, baseball, football, riding. Not used currently. Future project possibly.

Town Beach. Belongs to another committee.

Intro to cross country skiing. Ongoing. Ann is interested.

Letting people know about existing trails. Cowls land and some other trails have posted maps. We have some maps on recreation committee page. Would be great to continue this. Open Space committee is also working on this.

Other garden related ideas.

Barbara will circulate this list.

2) open space committee actions assigned to rec com:
playground equipment purchases. Not something we can do.
Garden, we are doing.
Trails. Ongoing.

Kestrel: trying to buy land off Pelham Hill Road from town line to Baker Road, 275 acres, head of watershed for Atkins reservoir. Also attempting to get funding to make an accessible trail at Ames Pond land.

Next meeting, December 28 at 4pm.

Meeting ends: 5:01

From Barbara:

Ideas for Recreation Committee:

I have listed each activity as a stand alone but they could be grouped. For example, Anne grouped a several of the events as part of a series on exploring the outdoors in Shutesbury.

Anne checked with Mary Anne about ballpark figure for event leaders. There is quite a range: free to \$500. \$250 is often enough to get someone. There are lots of people in Shutesbury with the skills who may be willing to do some of these for free or a lesser amount.

Event/Activity	Description/Status	Cost
Orienteering	Barbara has contacted the New England Orienteering Club and they will help find someone to set up a course and run an orienteering event for beginners.	Pay someone from the Club to set up the course and run the event (\$250?)
Geocaching	This was an idea brought up by the committee in 2019. Was this ever done? What does it entail?	
Workshop(s) on building dry stone walls	A Shutesbury resident has received training at the Stone Trust in VT, an organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the art and craft of dry stone walling. When we have the ground prepared for the gardens there will be a lot of rocks! Invite him to lead a class on dry stone walling	Pay him to lead the event (\$250)

Snow shoe lending library	Purchase snow shoes and make them available to town residents. See note to right on cost. Organize an intro to snow-shoeing (have not put in cost for this because snow shoeing is pretty straight forward, one of us could lead a walk)	The price of snow shoes can range from \$60 to several hundred dollars. Some come with poles but for others this is a separate purchase. Snow shoes are not one size fits all so would have to consider a range.
Cross Country Ski lending library	Similar to above except	
Outing to Central Rock Gym to learn bouldering followed by an outdoor trip to local bouldering site.	There are multiple bouldering sites in the area (including a large number of routes in Montague). The first event would be an orientation at Central Rock Gym and would be for children and adults (cost \$25/ person). The next event would be outdoors at one of the bouldering sites in Montague. To safely boulder will need crash pads. Barbara can bring hers but if there is interest should consider purchasing them. People would have to have their own climbing shoes.	Central Rock Gym \$25/person Crash pads: \$175 each
Create a lending station for a wide variety of activities	We could purchase things as wide ranging as snowshoes to musical instruments to garden tools. Why does everyone have to buy every tool they need once a year or less?	
Family Track and Field Day.	Using the existing track at the SES we could host a day of races (age and distance specific) and throwing contests and jumping contests. We could have refreshments and prizes, This could get people more aware of the track and encourage usage.	Cost could range from somewhere between \$200 - \$500 (depending on if we want to create a sandpit for jumping.
Have a mushroom walk	There are a few people (Susan Loring-Wells, Wim (last name) in town that we know of that have a great knowledge of wild mushrooms. They may be willing to provide a guided walk and presentation.	Pay an honorarium of \$100.

Restore field behind the fire department	It used to be a baseball field and we had a soccer field back there...Now nobody uses it. I don't know how much it would take to restore it but, there are so many sports we could envision...volleyball court...frisbee golf course.	Cost would depend on how it is purposed.
Better development of town beach	This would take "team effort" with other town committees Make it more user friendly, better parking, better waterfront site development. This would take "team effort" with other town committees. It is probably a conservation committee issue.	Cost difficult to determine without doing an assessment of the area.
Native Flower Walks	Invite someone from the Native Plant Trust in Whately to lead three walks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring to learn about spring ephemerals • June/July for summer flowers • Fall for late bloomers 	Pay person \$250 per walk
Invasive plants	Invite someone from the Native Plant Trust in Whately to locate and identify invasive plants. Subsequently plan an outing to pull up invasive plants (for example there is a large amount of garlic mustard growing along the roads and into the woods	Pay person \$250
Fern walk	54 varieties of ferns have been identified on Mass Audobon properties and 40 in Lenox. We can safely assume there are a lot of varieties in Shutesbury! Hire someone from Hitchcock or Native Plant Trust to lead a fern identification walk.	Pay person \$250
Cross country Skiing	Have an intro to cross-country skiing for people new to the sport. Plan an outing on the trails North of Leverett Road/West of Montague Road	Pay someone to give basic lesson. (\$250)
Birdwatching	Hire someone to lead a birdwatching outing. Consider a location that could be accessible. Can have multiple habitats within close proximity (for example wetlands on one side of a road and conifers on another and hardwoods nearby).	Pay bird watcher (\$250)
PDF about recreational activities	As we do some of these events we could provide brief "How to" or "Resources" guides.	

Waterproof signs for trails	Create weatherproof signs for trailheads and perhaps signs/markers to highlight notable features along a trail.	Content of signs could be done by committee members or others in town. Would have to look into cost of waterproof signage
Translate signs	Provide for translation into Spanish signage on trails as well as any descriptions of trails made publicly available	Cost of translation.
PDF of trails in Shutesbury	We have hard copies of trail descriptions for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Wyola – Fiske Pond • Ames Pond • Houston & Gage Trail 	
Favorite Trails	Ask residents to share their favorite trail in Shutesbury. We could put this out as an announcement and in the next newsletter. For the spring newsletter we could list all of the trails and invite people who nominated them to lead a hike. A similar idea was floated in February 2018. What happened?	In 2018 the cost was estimated at \$100 for printing a newsletter insert`