

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 28, 2022  
3:30, Zoom

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

Meeting begun at 3:31

Approval of last minutes : minutes approved

Agenda:

1. Mission of Recreation Committee and criteria for selecting an activity
2. Content of web page
3. Update on activities (field day, invasive plant, farm tour, orienteering)
4. Submission to Our Town was due April 15. Barbara has already submitted this.

Barbara and Ann looked at other rec com mission statements and at Title VII Chapter 45 Section 14, determining that it's not necessary to tie the mission statement to this law. They crafted a draft mission statement, below, unanimously agreed upon by the committee:

**The Recreation Committee develops recreational activities designed to build community and enrich the quality of life in Shutesbury. The committee sponsors and supports recreational experiences and related educational programming for all age groups.**

Field Day: Ann will write a statement for the SES newsletter. What prizes for participants? Oriental trading? Ribbons or lanyards? Refreshments? Water can be provided by a school water cooler. Snacks from the budget? Christine R can pick up at BJs. Event is weather dependent. Rain date? The 12th or 18th if possible. Elaine asked the fire and police departments if they would like to come with equipment to show off, and hasn't heard back.

Orienteering: Barbara got a long email from John, who visited the trails north of Lake Wyola, some property owned by the camp, Fisk woods in Wendell, the state park. Price is lowered to \$1200. We pay the fee. The New England Orienteering organization keeps the map, holds the copyright and decides who can use the map. We have to get permissions from Wendell, the state, the camp. Not a very detailed map, for beginners. Family oriented.

This might need to be rethought, simplified. We could try to do this entirely in Shutesbury, at South Brook Conservation Area, north end of the lake. Or elsewhere in Shutesbury. Christine R and BZ feel this is too complicated. A scavenger hunt or walks in the woods that we organize might be simpler and more doable.

Maybe Zoe from Ancient Ponies could do a follow up event in the summer. We can pay her \$300 for this Saturday's event, which has filled up. The invasive plants workshop on May 7 has only two people signed up.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 26, 3:30 pm.  
Meeting adjourned: 4:30

Document from Barbara:

### **Process:**

Ann and I looked at (1) the mission/purpose of Recreation Committees/Commissions in towns of similar size and/or nearby and (2) Title VII Chapter 45 Section 14. The primary finding is that it is not necessary to tie the mission to the law.

Mission statements varied. In some towns the Recreation Committees manage youth sports, in others they may oversee a park or recreation facilities such as tennis courts. Not all towns have a Recreation Committee. Pelham, for example, does not but it does have a Community Garden Committee. Some towns have a committee but it never meets and/or has no mission statement.

The draft mission statement below is similar to that in Montague, Otis, and Russell.

**Draft Mission:**

The Recreation Committee develops recreational activities designed to build community and enrich the quality of life in Shutesbury. The committee sponsors and supports recreational experiences and related educational programming for all age groups. Its work includes designing, creating, and maintaining a community garden and related educational programming.

**Decision Criteria:**

The mission throws a broad net and we have to have a way to decide what activities we will provide/sponsor. Here are suggested criteria:

Do we have the physical space for the activity?

○ Ex. We can't do a lending library of snow shoes without a place for the snow shoes

Do we have the money?

Is there sufficient commitment of time on the part of rec com members and or interested residents to organize and run an activity. Unless someone willing to take the lead on an activity, we can't do it.

Do we have the logistical capabilities to manage an activity?

Ex: creating and maintaining a surface fit for ice skating requires the ability to make sure that the ice is safe and to maintain a clear surface.

If the answer to any of these is no and interest is high, is there an opportunity to remove the restriction through collaboration with a department/committee?

Ex: we do not have enough money to pay the invasive plant expert's fee but the library contributed to the balance.