

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow, chair, Ann Brigham, Christine Marglin (taking minutes), Elaine Puleo, Christine Robinson, BZ Reily

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Review of Family Field Day (Christine, Christine, Elaine)
3. Budget revisited: Two proposals: First, propose we pay Steven Carra \$250 for helping with Family Field Day. Rationale, this is not part of his responsibility as the PE teacher. He is doing this on his own time and using his professional expertise; second, revisit contributing to (and thus co-sponsoring) the fitness classes offered at the library. As mentioned at the last meeting, these benefit an older demographic than most of our programs.
4. Seasonal walks: Fall walk was cancelled because Barbara (who was to lead the walk) is unable to do so. Open Space Committee would like to co-sponsor these walks with the Recreation Committee. Propose that we invite the members - Gail Fleischaker and Penny Jaques -- to the November meeting to plan the winter, spring, and summer walks, one of which would be Julian's Bower. The third member of the Open Space Committee is Barbara.
5. Juried art show ... next steps? (Ann)
6. Pre-k and k soccer: Amherst Youth Soccer program emphasizes learning soccer skills and the rules of the game, working with a team, and building social, physical, and emotional readiness for the game. Sam Spisiak wondered if having a separate Shutesbury Soccer program for pre-k and k would be feasible. There are a number of issues that we would have to consider before proceed. First logistical. We would need to have insurance and whatever permissions would be required. Second inter-organizational. Amherst Youth Soccer has traditionally provided these services to Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury. Third, if the Rec Committee takes this on, it would have to recruit coaches. In the short-run Sam has expressed interest in doing this. But in the medium to long term, would there be other parents with a similar interest.
7. Pickleball: Does the committee want to support efforts to apply for a grant from CPC to build an outdoor pickleball court? And if so, what level of support are committee members willing to give?

Family Field Day was very successful again, a terrific turn out especially given the cold, bleak weather. Families had a great time and expressed a lot of appreciation for the event.

Pay Steve Carra: unanimous agreement to pay him \$250 for family field day.

Library classes: Barbara proposes \$1000 be given to the library now, revisiting in the spring to see if we could offer more. Unanimously agreed upon.

Seasonal Walks: the Open Space committee will be invited to our November meeting to discuss Shutesbury walks for winter, spring and summer.

Possible walks: Ames Pond, walk to waterfall near BZ's home, walk for people with limited mobility, Pelham Hill/Leverett Road/West Pelham Road/Leonard Road loop with easy option of school track.

Juried art show: Ann is in contact with Joan Green who is the organizer for this event. We would offer support chiefly for promotional purposes, no funding involved. BZ: if at SAC would have to be indoors possibly. Also it takes a day to set up and a day to take down on either side of the day of the event. Ann suggests she invite Joan Green to come to a meeting so that we can discuss the specifics with her.

Christine R questions whether this is a good fit for our committee. This kind of event is a lot of work, and may not be worth the effort for artists. If a lot of people don't come it will not be profitable for the artists. A studio tour might be better, and BZ would prefer to put effort into that.

Pre K and K Soccer: proposal for a town soccer opportunity for 3-5 year olds. Logistics: what kind of insurance is needed? Amherst has been doing this for a long time, would it create problems to create our own here? We would have to recruit coaches after the current people who are interested, Sam and Andy, are finished coaching in the short term. Elaine supports this, feels it won't be hard to find coaches among parents or high school students, and possibly the Fire Department could offer a CPR class for adults involved. Elaine thinks then insurance would cover this. BZ recalls pick up games from when her children were young. Doesn't feel this needs to be so formally organized, avoiding CORI certification, insurance and so on. We could help advertise without formal sponsorship. It's fun and family time for the children and the parents, which we support. We can find out from the town if we can proceed with this kind of sponsorship without formalizing it.

Pickle ball: indoor will continue, does the committee support a grant to build an outdoor court? No one on the committee is willing and able to work on this.

Meeting adjourned: 4:57

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 4.