

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:01

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

Guest: Sam Spisiak

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Agenda:

1. New member

2.a. Barbara approached Sam Spisiak about joining the committee and Sam expressed interest. In consideration of the process the committee approved, Sam will be asked to share why she would like to be a member of the committee. The committee will then deliberate and vote.

3.2. Events for this fiscal year: (there is no new information on the first four ... need people who are taking responsibility for each activity to suggest dates for our next meeting).

4. Dates:

5. • Late April to early May: Mushroom growing

6. • April to May: Night sky

7. • May 15-21: Bird migration

8. • Late May to early June: Ames Pond Walk

9. • ??: Art Show

10. Activities general questions:

11. • Would like to say something about what is planned and when and who will be leading them for the town newsletter (due March 15).

12. o What can we say about the Art Show?

13. • Barbara will contact Mary Anne about co-sponsoring the first four events.

14. • Confirm that people responsible are making contact with people and narrowing down the dates

15. Activities detail – update what has been done in terms of contacting people and determining dates:

16.a. Walks (Barbara)

17.i. The **first walk** was scheduled for Sunday, February 25, at Ames Pond, to be led by Graeme Sephton. Twenty-four people RSVP'd that they would like to come. The cut-off was 15 so the other nine were placed on a waiting list.

18.1. The walk was postponed due to ice and rescheduled for Sunday, March 10.

19.ii. The **second walk** is scheduled to be led by Barbara.

20.1. Given the number of activities proposed for the spring and summer, Barbara will propose that this walk not be held.

21.iii. The **third walk** is scheduled for late May or early June and will be held at Ames Pond. Elaine will ask Helen Ann Sephton or Susan Loring Wells to lead the walk.

22.a. Mushroom growing (BZ)

23.i. This event will be held in the spring after threat of frost is gone (April to May). BZ will ask Wim if he would lead a demonstration of the process, giving participants an opportunity to decide if they want to invest in the materials.

24.b. Night sky (Christine R. & Ann ... double check that Ann is co-organizing this event)

25.i. Need to confirm dates with Tom Schieding

26.c. Bird migration

27.i. Elaine will ask either Cliff Reed or Leslie Brager to lead this activity. Peak time is May 15-21

28.d. Art show

29.e. Other ideas?

3. Chair of Recreation Committee

a. Barbara plans to step down at end of this fiscal year

Sam wants to be on the committee. Loves the town, getting her family involved in town, is feeling like her children are getting a little older and she can think about taking in other things. Sam would like to do a kite festival with families in town behind town hall or in front of library. Her family enjoys flying kites in these spots and would like to see many families involved.

A unanimous vote approves Sam to join the committee.

#### Schedule of events

Walks: first one rescheduled for March 10. Second, canceled due to the large number of other events planned. Third walk, again to Ames Pond, in late May or early June. Our committee could walk there beforehand.

Mushroom growing: possibly Brian Bender or someone else could lead a demonstration, showing people how they could do this themselves. April or May.

Night sky: Christine R is organizing, BZ will check with her.

Bird migration: Cliff Read will lead, spring and/or fall.

Art Studio Tour last weekend in June, BZ running it with Joan Green, we should advertise. Joan would like artists to visit each other's studios the night before the open house. Some artists may have other artists join them. Approximately 8 studios will participate. May become an annual event. We will help with maps and signs.

Other ideas:

Kite Event: advertise, people arrive with kites, we could purchase some for folks who don't have one. First weekend in April. Sunday, April 7 in the morning, behind town hall at 11 am.

Pollinator workshop: we are cosponsoring, no responsibilities as far as planning is concerned.

Barbara will step down as chair at the end of this fiscal year. Ideally someone with energy and knowledge for the community garden will take over. End of summer 2025 is projected for completion of library project. Not clear that it will be possible to have garden at the library site. May have a clearer sense midsummer of this year. BZ is wondering about reapplying the funds designated for a community garden for something else such as library landscaping. Maybe someone doing pollinator garden would be interested in being committee chair. Something will go into newsletter about need for new chair.

Library can cosponsor events.

Open space committee will cosponsor walks. Penny from that committee suggests early evening for Ames Pond walk, possibly full moon.

Meeting adjourned: 4:49

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 4.