

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow & Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Christine Marglin (taking minutes), Elaine Puleo, BZ Reily

Absent: Ann Brigham, Christine Robinson

Guests: Steve Rice, Howell Lee, Jeannie Wu

Minutes from August 27 meeting approved

Agenda:

1. Town-wide birthday party (Barbara)
2. Pickleball players applying for CPC funds (Barbara)
3. Soccer update & request to purchase more balls (Sam)
4. [4. Sept. 28](#) Good Neighbor Day (Sam)
5. Ideas for FY 2025 (all)
6. Other

Town-wide birthday party: we will have a table at the party, Barbara will go and talk about the committee and what activities people might be interested in seeing us have.

Pickleball: Barbara had been previously unofficially involved in promoting Pickleball at SES. Now a further project is to getting an outdoor court made. Steve and Howell and Jeannie are working on this.

Steve shares a document based upon Howell and Jeannie's research. Fastest growing sport in US, over 38 million people, small court, good for all ages, with fastest growing demographic 18-34 year olds. An outdoor court would extend the playing time into spring and summer when school is closed. Possible sites: school athletic field, behind fire station, behind town hall. Timeline to submit a proposal to CPC is Dec 5, to determine eligibility. Grant application would be due Feb 5 if eligible. Construction is consistent with CPC plan for Shutesbury.

Elaine suggests they do a feasibility study first, choosing a site and estimating costs. They currently estimate costs at \$45,000. Pickleball group asks for our sponsorship and support. Barbara notes that a sound barrier is an important component of building a court. That is not included in the estimate. Needs to be included in feasibility study as it is a concern in town.

Howell: Other towns have hired Berkshire Design to do feasibility studies for Pickleball courts.

Our committee unanimously supports the grant funding for a feasibility study for the creation of an outdoor court.

Soccer: Sam has a very strong positive response to floating the idea to families. She wonders if more balls should be purchased. She is doing it this weekend at SES. We can purchase more balls that can always be donated to the school. Sam will make a sign up list of those who come, and try to generate parent volunteers.

Sept 28, Good Neighbor Day, still need baked goods and more clean up help. Sam is doing a marble run craft with BZ. Sam will also bring soccer supplies.

Elaine will ask Clif Reed to lead a second birding event. Barbara will ask Helen Ann and Graeme to lead a walk.

Night sky: Tom is very generous about inviting people to come over if it's a nice night. Two many dates lead to confusion and a poor turn out the last rain date. In future we need to schedule a single date, and a single rain date at most. Barbara suggests holding the next one next summer.

Al Warner will lead a rock walk. Elaine will check with him about dates.

Barbara: Improv, community singing, other indoor events?

Sam: bike tuneup day, repairs, safety, tire changing, riding, maybe at town meeting or some other town event. Maybe in April.

The kite event again in spring, probably May, first week in May is international kite day.

Elaine: a play reading event at the SAC during winter.

Open studios for artists: we can support the marketing for that again. Committee unanimously votes to provide \$100 for marketing expenses.

Meeting adjourned: 4:50

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22 at 4.