

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:01

Present: Barbara Bigelow & Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Christine Marglin (taking minutes), Christine Robinson

Absent: Ann Brigham, Elaine Puleo, BZ Reily

Guests: Steve Rice, Darwin Michener-Rutledge

Minutes from September meeting approved

Agenda:

New member interview

Update on soccer (Sam)

Update on. Right Water Bog walk (Barbara and Christine R)

Future Events

Christine R and Barbara: Bright Water Bog, the day was beautiful, the walk was lovely, including history, views, and so on. The walk took a very two full hours, attended by about 20 people. Walk filled up within 2 hours, plus a waiting list. We will have another in the spring when there are orchids and other plants in bloom. Newcomers to town attended, everyone was very happy with the walk and meeting each other.

Sam: soccer drops off as the weeks go on among older kids but is very popular with younger kids. Wide ability range among older kids. Sam is organizing with a local dad, can't offer tons of instruction which some kids want. It's free for families so they attend casually. More instruction can't be offered without volunteer coaches stepping up. People bring snacks, hang out at the playground afterward.

Steve Rice re Pickle ball: alternate sources of funding for pickle ball court creation. Construction of two courts desired, they are seeking funding to make them happen. Barbara sent ideas for funding sources, such as CPC, AARP, US pickle ball, a manufacturer of pickle ball equipment, Mass Council on Aging, perhaps other sources of funding that focus on older people.

Eligibility: some grants only available to nonprofit organizations. What is our committee involvement? Is there a way to get more of the town budget for open space and recreation? Steve will keep us updated on their progress. Our committee won't write the grant, but maybe someone from the pickle ball endeavor would like to be part of our committee.

Darwin: very new to town, interested in town government and organizing. Works at the Eric Carle Museum. Wants to feel connected. Unanimously voted in as a new member. Woo-woo!

Christine M will call Happy Valley Improv about offering a session to the town on a Sunday afternoon in winter.

Meeting adjourned: 4:50

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 26 at 4.

Recreation Committee 2024/2025 Sponsored and organized activities

Time of year/month	Activity	Person organizing or overseeing
Year round	Fitness Classes (Sponsored)	Committee
Fall/September	Youth Soccer (Sponsored)	Sam
Fall/October	Bright Water Bog Walk	Barbara
Fall /September 29	Good Neighbor Day (Sponsored)	
Fall/October	Town wide birthday party (Sponsored)	
Spring/bird migration	Bird watching	Cliff?
Spring/May	Bright Water Bog Walk	Barbara
Spring/May	Go fly a Kite ... first week in May	
Spring/April	Bicycle tune-up day ... riding, repairs, tire changing	Barbara, Sam, (Elaine?)
Summer/June	Shutesbury Open Studios (Sponsored)	
Summer	Night Sky with Tom Schielding	Barbara

Ideas:

Rock walk: Al Warner is interested in doing it but he is very committed and it may have to wait until next FY.

Indoor events:

- Improv, community singing, other indoor events?

- Play reading event at SAC during the winter

Outdoor events:

- Moss, lichen, fungus walk ... what are the differences & identification