

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow & Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Ann Brigham, Christine Marglin (taking minutes), Darwin Michener-Rutledge, Elaine Puleo, BZ Reily, Christine Robinson

Guests: Steve Rice, Howell Lee

Minutes from October meeting approved

Agenda:

1. SES to Library Walking Trail (Elaine)
2. Pickleball Court
3. Improv workshop (Christine M.)
4. Learn to knit (Anne)
5. Other activities?

Library Walking Trail

Elaine: library walking trail, to be made by volunteers. One thousand is being asked of the rec committee. That would be a third of our budget. We typically give the library \$1000, so that would leave only \$1000 which is less than we've been spending on our own programs.

Motion to approve: unanimously approved.

Pickleball Courts

Steve and Howell: amount estimated based upon other towns building courts. There doesn't appear to be any grant money available. The track at SES is their suggested location for this, but that is undetermined. Since the track is a well-used area, it seems unlikely to be approved. If the school is off limits, other sites possible are behind fire station and behind town hall. Those locations may be wetter and closer to homes, presenting potential noise issues. A site about 300 feet behind town hall might work. Will we going to sponsor the pickle ball courts? This is not a financial commitment, but a commitment to serve as the sponsoring town committee for the building of one or two courts.

We unanimously approve the request to sponsor.

\$50,000 - \$100,000 estimated for one or two courts.

Will the CPC give money if there are no other sources of funding? The pickle ball players could raise donations among themselves but this wouldn't amount to a significant portion. In kind support may be possible. Would the finance committee consider a line item for the courts? Many towns are creating them. Or they can be asked for free cash. Line item for maintenance? T Mobile gives grants to small communities for projects, Sam will forward information.

Improv

Christine M: Happier Valley Improv is simply out of our price range. CM will approach someone she knows who teaches improv, offering him \$250. Barbara will look into contacting someone she knows. If all else fails, Barbara and CM will offer an improv workshop themselves.

Knitting

Ann Brigham: would like to start a beginner's group to learn and an experienced group to work together on a project. Elaine thinks a drop in group might be better. Christine R knows someone with a large supply of yarn and who is an expert knitter. She thinks an initial workshop would be a good place to start. She has a list from a town group that met before Covid hit, and feels that a very simple project is the first thing to have folks tackle. Barbara will make sure the library isn't already doing something along these lines, and if they wish to cosponsor.

Meeting ended: 5 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 28 at 4.

Agenda item 1:

- See Attachment for DOC
- Email from Michael DeChiara with additional information:

A few weeks ago, Matteo Pangallo, in his role as CPC chair, asked me about an idea I floated a few years ago when I was on the CPC. I am re-surfacing this now given the construction of our new wonderful library and the proposal cycle for the CPC. It is to create a **path from SES to the new library**. One of the great aspects of having a new, bigger library is that our elementary students can go there, esp. after school if parents are not able to be home or if they have a project to work on. As we know, Leverett Road is hazardous and not a place for small people to be walking unattended. So the question was, can we create a path thru the woods to get to the library with minimum time on the roads? There is a way and it would take some effort, but I present this now for your consideration. To get from SES to the new library requires crossing W. Pelham and then Pelham Hill roads, to enter at the middle or rear of lot O-32. UMass owns two lots along that route - P13 which goes from backland of West Pelham to Pelham Hill and O-83 which goes from Pelham Hill to O-32. The remaining connector could go through lot P-25 which is owned by Gail Fleischaker. Access through these parcels would require an easement for a trail. I would imagine that this could be funded with Recreation funds from CPC for construction of a trail. Given my work on the Planning Board and ECAC, I don't have time to take this on. But perhaps some of you or others on your committees would be interested. I just think that enabling our elementary kids to get to the library safely, on their own, would be a great thing.