

## Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

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: Chief Kristin Burgess (didn't show up), Diane Jacoby, Allen Hanson

Minutes from December meeting approved

### Agenda:

1. Kristin Burgess, Police Chief to present idea for softball field
2. Stitch-in group scheduling
  - We had our first gathering this past Sunday and it was lovely.
  - Plan to meet every other week starting February 16. We're waiting until we have the room in Town Hall confirmed before sending out a town-wide email.
3. Improv workshop date changed to 2/23
  - Reason for date change – Library had programming on 2/9 at the same time.
  - Town-wide email sent out yesterday ... had some delay while waiting to get approval to use Town Hall but we got the room and we're on track.
  - We do need to set up a snow date ... find out which of these dates would work for Henry:
    - o March 2, March 16, or March 23
4. CPC Determination of Eligibility proposals
  - Both the pickleball court proposal to do a feasibility study and the proposal to construct a path between the new library and the school are eligible to apply for CPC funds.
5. Bike repair in spring
  - To move forward on this event, we need to have one person willing to take the lead on planning and one or two people willing to help.
  - In terms of scheduling, we need to be sure that we avoid scheduling an event on the same day the library has programming ... that's why
6. Go Fly a Kite
  - Is Sam still willing to lead this?
7. Other programming
  - The soccer is not listed under other programming on the agenda but this will start up again in the spring. The Recreation Committee sponsors it but we do not run it.
  - Another event that we do not run but have sponsored is the Open Studios. In 2024 we provided \$100 for marketing. Nate Longcope is organizing it this year.
  - Spring comes up fast so the sooner we can get these on the books the better:
    - o Bird watching ... schedule during spring migration? Is someone willing to take this on?
    - o Spring walk at Bright Water Bog (I am happy to organize this again ... should we ask Graham and Helen Ann again?)
    - o Night sky ... if we wait until August 2025 that will be FY 26

- o Farm visit to Ancient Pony Farm ... it's been at least two years since we've done this
- o The geologist ... is it worth asking him if he'd be willing to lead and event
- o Creating an orchard (Christine's husband)

Allen and Diane are attending to see what's going on within the committee.

Knitting Group: just had first meeting Sunday morning, there are others interested. Will be a general stitching group as some people want to crochet or darn. Will meet every other week starting Feb 16.

Improv will be offered Feb 23, Town Hall, announcement has gone out. Christine M will ask Henry about a snow date, one of the first three Sundays in March.

CDC funds not available for any of the proposals.

Bicycle event: a day in spring, simple repairs, SES is a good location. Sam is trying to find someone to help. Christine R will try to find someone from a bike shop in Amherst if a Shutesbury resident isn't available to volunteer. Elaine may be able to find someone from here in town. Group rides also possible. May or June.

Go Fly a Kite: Sam will organize, possibly involving the library. People gather to fly kites, some kites for children to decorate and fly are available.

Other programming:

Soccer will continue in May on Sunday mornings at the SES field. A good turn out in fall, quite successful.

Art Studios, last weekend in June. Successful art tour last year, will happen same weekend this year. As last year, we will likely provide support for marketing.

Spring events: bird watching during spring migration. Happened in June last year. Might happen at Bright Water Bog. Also walks at Bright Water Bog. Barbara will propose possible dates and Elaine will ask Clif.

DCR proposes clear cutting trees, healthy 200 year old pines, in Shutesbury near the Quabbin and 202. BZ wants committee to send a letter against this. She will draft a letter and send it to the committee for comment. Links to local articles would also be good.

Christine M to ask Stephen M about a fruit tree maintenance offering.

Ancient Ponies or another farm visit? ServiceNet farm in Whately might be a good choice.

Geologist Al Warner: would he lead a walk? Elaine will ask him.

Night sky events would be in next fiscal year. Christine R can talk with Tom about doing this again.

Chief Kristin wasn't able to come, but Elaine reports that she would like to revitalize the baseball field and start a league. She doesn't want money but doesn't want to step on our toes, and wonders if we will support her.

Meeting adjourned: 4:44

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2025.