



Town Clerk <townclerk@shutesbury.org>

Minutes Rec Committee June 24, 2025

Christine Benvenuto <christinebenvenuto@hotmail.com>

Tue, Aug 26, 2025 at 4:04 PM

To: Grace Bannasch <townclerk@shutesbury.org>

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow, Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Ann Brigham, Christine Marglin (taking minutes),

Absent: Elaine Puleo, Christine Robinson, Darwin Michener-Rutledge, BZ Reily (stepping down from committee after this meeting)

Agenda

Vote to approve minutes

1. Update on bike repair workshop (Sam)
2. Update on Stitching group
3. Programming for FY 26
 - a. Sponsored programs
 1. Town-wide bday party
 2. Open Studios (if they need support)
 3. Soccer
 4. Good Neighbor Day (or is this co-offered with library)
 5. Fitness classes @ library
 - b. Programs offered by Rec Committee
 1. Bike workshop
 2. Walks (often co-sponsored with library)
 3. Educational activities (night sky, bird walk, rocks of Shutesbury)
 - c. Other ideas?
 4. Open Studio is this Sunday ... anyone interested in joining me?
 5. New Members - B.Z. has stepped down after many years as the committee's chair and more recently as a member. Consider another member with young children? Consider someone who might be interested in chairing in the future?
 6. Other agenda items?

Sam: Bike event went very well, lots of kids riding bikes together and perhaps 15 people came for tuneups. Many people got their bikes up and running after having been told elsewhere that their bikes were too old. Easy to organize. Should become a yearly item in our schedule. Great event.

Kites unfortunately didn't go well, lots of people came but it was too windy and the kites were ripped to shreds. Next year we could buy better kites. Maybe they could be stored at the new library from one year to the next.

Stitching group: very successful. Barbara has a list of 15-20 people interested. Knitting, embroidery, crocheting, mending. Group members talked about having a road trip to a knitting factory and store in Vermont. Next meeting in the fall might be in the new library. Christine R and Barbara have gone almost every week.

Orchard visit: went well. People tending their own trees or interested in starting their own orchards came.

Soccer: great. Started with around 30 kids, trickling down to around 10. Wet ground but very fun, very successful. Rec Com can replace balls or other supplies if needed in future.

Programming for fiscal year 2026:

We are a sponsor for town birthday party, contributing \$100.

Open studios didn't need money this year, we could advertise for them as a way to sponsor.

Good neighbor day: we gave \$100 last year as a sponsor, we will continue to do so.

Kites we co-run with the library.

We help sponsor library-run fitness programs. Some of our events were canceled due to weather, and family members of Sam and Christine M ran two events and so were not compensated. Some event leaders refused compensation. We ended up with around \$800 in our budget and it went to the library.

Bright Water Bog walk: we hope to do another at end of summer or beginning of fall, the scheduled spring walk was rained out.

Educational activities: night sky viewing, we might do it again in August. Must be done on a clear night, so can be tricky to schedule and reschedule as needed.

Birding walk was very much enjoyed, we should do that again in the fall.

The rock walk: should be scheduled.

Growing mushrooms workshops: people at the orchard event were interested in learning how to do it. Sam suggests the workshop could be on zoom. Alternately a YouTube video. Ann wonders if the leader of the workshop might want to be outside at their mushroom-growing logs.

Other possible events: jigsaw puzzle making, puzzle swaps, board games. Ann: maybe as a one-time event, not an ongoing commitment from the committee. Shutesbury trivia or larger Quabbin area trivia event.

Barbara will talk with Christine R about night sky event.

Open Studio this Sunday.

New members for the committee, perhaps with young families, Sam can think about getting others on board. Barbara will remain the chair for the time being but a new chair or cochair will eventually be needed.

Meeting adjourned: 4:49

Next meeting: Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025 4pm

Christine Benvenuto
Member, [Dramatists Guild of America](#)
Member, [New Play Exchange](#)