

# Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 3-18-26

**Attending:** Members Dan Post, Diana Hardina, Norman Beebe, and Stefan Topolski, Cowell Director Grace Thorne, and guest Thomas Rabideau, co-director of Pickleball program

1--- Call to order

- \* Dan appointed secretary pro-tem
- \* February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes approved

2--- Updates/reports/program check-ins

- \* Cowell Director's report (as submitted by Grace)

*1. I emailed Hilltown Hardwood Flooring about coming to look at the gym floors. They have not answered my email. I will follow up with them if there is still no response.*

*2. When the forecast looks clear of bad weather, I will put the tennis court net back up. I'll also contact Jeff at the highway department about putting up the bulletin board outside.*

*3. The Franklin Tech electrical department came on 3/16 to start labeling the inside of the electrical panels. They will finish their project on 3/23.*

*4. I'm holding the lost and found in my office for a week and then I'm donating everything downstairs to the clothes closet.*

*5. I created a "gym cleaning supply" locker with the mop spray, extra mop head, and directions for use.*

*6. The emergency exit door in the gym has been fixed. The parking lot entrance door will not latch sometimes so it's important to make sure it gets pushed fully shut after leaving.*

\* Cowell outdoor courts – the money allocated by last year's Town Meeting is still available to us. There is a warrant article being proposed for the Special Town Meeting being held on April 8<sup>th</sup> that will ask to transfer \$8,000 from the Cowell User Fees Account to the account that will pay for the upgrades for the outdoor courts. Combining this \$8,000 with the \$21,000 from last year's Town Meeting will allow us to cover the bid from the contractor who will do the work. The contractor, Vermont Recreational, says that they will do the work this summer. (Norman will learn on Monday if this warrant article will go forward.)

\* Cowell Youth Winter Program completed a successful run. Participation was increased at the upper grades by having Fred Redeker's Buckland/Shelburne Hilltown Basketball Program run alongside our program at the Cowell.

\* Adult basketball – Thursday night's 18-and-over basketball has seen attendance of around 10 players per night, and Tuesday night's 35-and-over basketball has seen 6-10 players per night.

\* Ice skating – there were 49 visits to Stefan's rink. Visitors skated, played boot hockey, or just came to play on the ice. Stefan has graciously agreed to offer a place for ice play again next year.

\* Pickleball – has welcomed 6-8 new players in the past 3 weeks. Additional sessions will be converted to drop-in; some sessions will run 3 hours to spread out high attendance. Outdoor play will begin soon, weather and daylight permitting. The Committee decided that the outdoor courts

could be reserved for Pickleball-only on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8:30 pm, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8:30-11:30 am. If there is low attendance at any of these outdoor sessions, then basketball players would be welcome to play.

\* Ping pong – has seen 6-8 players per session. Diana has extended the current Wednesday 6 to 8 pm schedule through April 8<sup>th</sup>. One of the tables was damaged when food was left on it outside of ping pong hours. Norman will speak with managers of the food pantry and the clothing store to let them know what has happened and to ask them and to tell their staff and patrons not to do that. Diana and Norman will look into how to restrict access to the ping pong room when not in use, perhaps by locking a door or doors. Diana plans to paint the floor at some point in the future.

\* Senior walk ended on February 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 25 individuals who participated, with 10-12 attending on any given day.

\* Volleyball – has not occurred for the past 3 weeks for lack of players. Four players are needed to run. Stefan and Diana will launch a new advertising campaign.

\* River trail – the survey will be completed this spring.

### 3--- Ongoing/new business

\* Kickball – Grace would like to start a new sports program, not necessarily just kickball, for women and non-binary players. Grace shares a handout and questionnaire that she plans to use to gauge interest. We offer suggestions. Diana will work with Grace on the flyer. The proposed sports program would utilize Arms Field, the ball field adjacent to the Historical Society building.

\* Town Report – Norman presented his draft for the Rec. Committee report that will appear in the Annual Town Report distributed at Town Meeting in May and asked if anyone has suggestions on additions or edits to it. All seemed pleased with what Norman had written but there were a couple of suggestions which Norman will add. He will share the updated report via email.

\* Program policies/expectations – Diana and Dan will work on a final draft of a document that would express the expectations of the Committee for how programs would be run at the Cowell Gym.

\* TAB room/gym floor – the money allocated by last year's Town Meeting is available beyond the fiscal year. John Walsh estimates the TAB room renovation will cost \$20,000 to \$30,000. This will leave some money for floor repairs. Norman and Grace will reach out to flooring companies about repairing the gym floor.

\* Sponsorship opportunities – Stefan received an email asking if we are interested in sponsorship opportunities. After a brief discussion we decide we're not, at least not at this time.

4--- Next meeting on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm – this will likely be moved. Norman anticipates the proposed town warrant for additional money for the outdoor court renovation will be up for consideration at the Special Town Meeting to be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>. If it is, he will be expected to attend. Norman will reach out to folks about a new meeting time if this happens.