

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 5-13-26

Attending: Members Dan Post, Diana Hardina, and Norman Beebe, Cowell Director Grace Thorne, and guest Bodhi Kraus

1--- Call to order

* April 15th meeting minutes approved

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

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

1. During the Hilltown Draw-around the girls' restroom floor drain flooded. Hartnett plumbing came and cleared the clog after the event was done. Hartnett mentioned they may need an access hole cut into the food bank wall to fix any future problems in the women's restroom.

2. I contacted Jeff at the highway department about putting up the bulletin board outside, replacing a light in the gym, and doing an annual cleaning of the gym minisplit filters that are high up on the gym wall.

3. I'm still waiting on an estimate from Hilltown Hardwood Flooring about potential repair options for the gym floor.

4. Tom Williams, Shelburne's Emergency Management Director, contacted me to unlock some doors in the building to get information for his grant proposal for a back-up generator for the gym.

* Cowell outdoor courts – Vermont Recreational is not scheduling jobs yet (due to the cold weather) but plans on doing our job in July or August.

* Basketball – both groups going well. The Thursday/over 18 group is turning in \$50 to \$60 each week. The Tuesday/over 35 group had 14 people last night which included some young adult grandchildren. Their presence does change the game. Diana is managing the situation.

* Ping pong – going well and the Wednesday schedule from 6 to 8 has been extended through June.

* Women/nonbinary sports – the first meeting was a success. Fifteen folks showed up for kickball this past Monday and it went until 7:45 pm.

* Town elections are happening this coming Tuesday, May 19th. Joe will need to be in the gym from Friday afternoon to Wednesday morning. volleyball, Tuesday basketball, and pickleball will need to be alerted.

* CHCFC mobile unit is planning to return to the Cowell Gym parking lot. They may need to change their current schedule of the second Wednesday of the month to another day.

3--- Ongoing/new business

* Finalize program policies/expectations – we approve the draft document, *Recreation Committee Programs: Expectations and Goals*, brought to the meeting with one change. See attached document. We will be looking at the Code of Conduct at our June meeting to bring in line with this document.

* Membership – last week we had two possible candidates interested in being written in for the five-year recreation committee position for which there are no candidates. Norman spoke to both candidates and one felt they could not make the time commitment but the other, Walter Chadwick, was still very much interested. Norman will check with Joe to see if it's okay to use our Facebook page to get the word out that Walter would like to be written in. If Joe says it's okay, Diana will post this message on Facebook.

* River Trail – the recreation committee will now be taking the lead on this project in coordination with the Open Space Committee. The hope is to have the survey work completed this month. Once completed, easement deeds will be drawn up, and a meeting of the affected land owners will be scheduled. This work will need to be completed by the end of June to qualify for reimbursement by the FY26 Woodlands Partnership grant that the town received last June. (Norman wrote this grant which is why the rec. committee is now taking the lead on this project.) The following motion was approved unanimously, *The committee empowers Norman Beebe to spend up to \$3521 (the amount in the FY26 Woodland Partnership grant) for expenditures related to the proposed River Trail. These expenditures could include attorney and surveyor fees, appraisals (if needed), and purchase of lumber (for developing walkway/bridge prototypes).*

* Women's bathroom plumbing – the continuing clogs requiring Harnett Plumbing to come has become a major expense for the town. Grace will talk to Harnett Plumbing to get a clearer sense of whether it's just people flushing sanitary napkins, etc. or whether it's deliberate. In the meantime, she will post a large sign on the back of the women's stall door explicitly stating that non-toilet paper items cannot be flushed down the toilet, and that doing so is causing serious plumbing issues and expense for the town. We already have a bin available for the disposal of non-toilet paper items.

4--- FY26 budget – we approve spending money on ping pong (Diana), pickleball (Dan will contact the pickleball leadership team), and possibly kickball (Grace). All orders are to go through Norman. Additionally, Dan, Diana, and Grace will look into possibly having shelving built to deal with our storage issues in the lobby. We will circle back to FY26 expenditures at our next meeting.

5--- Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 pm.