

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 7-15-26

Attending: Members Dan Post, Diana Hardina, Norman Beebe, Stefan Topolski and Walter Chadwick, and Cowell Director Grace Thorne

1--- Call to order

* June 17th meeting minutes approved

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

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

1. Jason, from Hartnett Plumbing, said the drain pipes are in the concrete floor, and any significant changes to the plumbing would require exposing all the pipes. He said we shouldn't have issues moving forward if we keep things from getting flushed down the toilet that are not supposed to be flushed.

2. Contractors are starting to gather materials for the TAB Room construction. John Walsh is overseeing that project and I am checking in with him about the progress.

3. I emailed Jeff at the highway department about following up on the mini split filter cleanings in the gym and installing the bulletin board outside. The highway department is quite busy at the moment. Jeff is looking for the time to complete these tasks. He'll prioritize cleaning the mini split filters.

4. Still no update from Hilltown Hardwood Flooring about estimates on the gym floor. I will look into other floor companies if we would still like to proceed. (Note: the committee wants to proceed.)

5. A resident from Buckland would like to rent the gym for two hours every Saturday in the late afternoon until BSE Starts again. The group is using it for pickleball.

* Cowell outdoor courts – still no date for the renovation. We discuss possible pickleball court line colors. Dan reports yellow seems to be paired up most with white tennis court lines. Norman reports he got a photo from Vermont Recreational with green lines on a green court that seemed to work well. We agree that this option might be less distracting for tennis players and Dan thinks that would work fine with pickleball. Norman will check with Vermont Recreational to see what other options there are for green lines besides what they sent him. We also agree we should walk the court before our next meeting to see if we should make changes to locations of the various courts.

* Basketball – Thursday group recently had 20 players! Tuesday group fluctuates between 4 and 10.

* Pickleball – Thomas was planning to attend but is ill and cannot update us. He'll come in August.

* Women/nonbinary sports – kickball is going great. Sixteen attended on Monday.

3--- Ongoing/new business

* Emergency Management Director Tom Williams gives us a presentation on what he's done so far to make the gym a viable emergency shelter and what he plans for the future. We thank him for his efforts.

* Play catch – Diana had the idea of starting a program on Arms Field where folks show up to play catch with someone. This was inspired by a conversation she had with a friend who doesn't have anyone to play catch with. We like the idea and empower Diana to get it started on Wednesday evenings.

* River Trail – easement meeting went well, all FY26 Woodland Partnership money was spent, and \$293.41 of FY26 rec. committee money was spent on lumber. Jim Perry of the Open Space Committee and Norman met with the Conservation Commission. They will meet again with them in August.

* Cowell Gym Code of Conduct – we work on broadening the code of conduct to all rec. programs. Norman will send out the changes we made. We'll finalize this at our next meeting.

4--- Upcoming elections – the committee wanted to know if the set-up time could be reduced. Currently runs from Friday afternoon through Wednesday morning. Norman will invite Joe to the next meeting.

5--- Next meeting on Wednesday, August 12th at 6:30 pm