

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for July 12, 2023

Present: Diana Hardina, Stefan Topolski, Norman Beebe, and Cowell Gym Director Bill Buck

1---- Approve minutes for March and May.

2---- Reviewing the March minutes spurs conversation about the Cowell Youth Basketball Program. Diana felt there was pressure for the 3rd through 6th graders to participate in the Saturday games which were not part of our program. This is something we'll need to address prior to December.

3---- Pickleball/ Mary Lou provides the following update.

*Good turnout on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings. Monday and Wednesday evenings less popular but still have solid attendance. Saturday mornings are the least utilized.

*Latest Demo had eight people show up.

*Having trouble scheduling beginner lessons as everyone is available at different times.

*Intermediate lessons were accomplished through "coach play".

*There's a safety concern about the outdoor pickleball court farthest from the Cowell. Apparently, a hole has developed between the backline and the fence. Norman will check it out and then talk to Mark about it. There is also concern in general about the break down in spots of the court surface. Stefan has also been observing this. Mary Lou will take photos and send them to Norman. Norman will then talk to Vermont Recreational, the company that paved it.

4---- Cowell director report/

*May's Cowell fee collection included \$186 from pickleball and \$180 from basketball.

*June's Cowell fee collection included \$255 from pickleball, \$370 from basketball, and \$1,760 from the Academy at Charlemont. The Four Rivers rental fee has yet to be paid.

*Mini-splits have been mostly installed. We debrief the process. Norman has spoken to Tom Johnson head of the town's energy committee about the need for them to have talked to us at the start of the process. Lack of communication up front leads to misinformation.

*Apparently the electrical box is not up to code. Yikes!

*Gym opens on Monday.

*Lower rim has had people hanging from it. We decide to put a sign on the backboard to discourage this. Diana will write it and Bill will post it.

*Holes being dug for the tennis/pickleball/soccer backboard. Woohoo!

*Bill will be resigning as of September 30th ☹. He informed Terry. We'll discuss replacing Bill at our August meeting.

5---- Grant money/ We spent \$6,975.13 on the Town Open Space and Recreation Plan and had the deadline for the expenditure of the remaining funds (\$13,024.87) extended to June 30, 2024. Norman will contact landscapers to see what we can do to improve/level the Arms ball field.

6---- Volleyball/open gym/ Stefan wants to do marketing/outreach with the goal of starting this up again in September.

7---- River trail/ Norman updates the committee on the next steps which include a survey and eventually the purchase of easements.

8---- Softball summer camp/ Norman spoke to Mohawk Athletic Director, Greg Lily, about having a Mohawk student or two help with this. Greg did not find anyone so the idea was dropped.

9---- Ping pong/ Diana feels we can't really launch this unless we have at least one more table. She feels she can get a decent used table for \$300 or less. Norman will check with Terry to see if we have money for this.

10---- Community Preservation Act representative/ We need to appoint someone to the CPA board for Shelburne. Mary Lou might be interested. We'll decide this at our August meeting.

11---- Other business/ Mary Lou thinks we should post in the September Town Newsletter that we have an open recreation committee seat. She'll bring text to our next meeting. Mary Lou would also like to discuss Cowell Gym maintenance at a future meeting.

12---- Next meeting – Wednesday August 9th at 6:30 at the Cowell.