

Town Of Shelburne Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2023

Cowell Gym

6:30PM

Attending: Norman Beebe Chair, Stefan Topolski, Diana Hardina, Mary Lou Gallup

1. August Meeting Minutes – Approved
2. Dedication plaque on Cowell outdoor courts- The Palmieri family generously offered to have the dedication plaque on the outdoor courts cleaned and restored. The committee unanimously supported and applauded this effort. Norman will communicate this to the town administrator.

3. Cowell Director Report- none

4. Updates-

a. Cowell Director Search- The Town Administrator confirmed to Diana that the stipend for the position is \$3400 per year. There is one candidate from Conway. Norman voiced concern that the candidate might not understand the position. Norman will speak with the candidate to assess the situation and get the person's resume/application to the committee members for review. If after discussion the person is still interested Norman will set up an interview with the committee. Bill Buck, the current Director, steps down at the end of September. If no replacement is in place at that point Diana Hardina will step in temporarily.

The committee discussed the ongoing question of missing gym fees collected. The missing money was never reported to the police. Mary Lou and Stefan voiced strong support for reporting the issue to the police. We did not report this to the police. There was a discussion about installing cameras in the gym building and a lock box where gym fees collected could be deposited. The committee recommended installing one camera in the entry stairway and a lockbox on the inside of the office door. Norman will speak to the Town administrator about both. Mary Lou will research lock boxes and make a recommendation to the committee.

b. Pickleball (see attached report)

c. Leveling of ballfield at Arms-Norman reported that \$7,000 of the original grant has been paid out. Norman spoke to Canapari Landscaping about leveling the field and they agreed to send a proposal. Norman will use that proposal to ask the Town Administrator to get bids. The hope was that the prep work could be done in the fall of 2023 with the remainder in the spring of 2024. Stefan raised the issue of there potentially being metal fixtures in the field (softball markings?). Norman will check it out.

d. Tennis/pickleball/soccer backboard – The backboard is still not in place.

Norman will check with Bill Buck to see what the hold up is. Mary Lou raised a concern that soccer is not an appropriate use of the backboard; the donors

donated for pickleball and tennis, the out courts are not soccer surfaces, hard pounding of the soccer ball would shorten the life of the backboard, potentially damage it and would be significantly louder than tennis or pickleball use. Mary Lou also raised a concern that the donation was made over 9 months ago and if the town can't get the backboard up asap the donations should be returned.

- e. Ping pong- Diana obtained a new table which is now in the building. The committee walked the building and looked at the viable spaces in the basement for a ping pong program. The consensus was that the larger room at the elevator end of the building was probably the most viable but would need some work.
- f. Other updates as needed-none

5. (labeled as 6 on agenda) Any other business.

- a. Gym cleaning- Norman had spoken to the town administrator she asked that we specifically identify the area we wanted cleaned and to put it in an email. The committee decided that the areas of concern are the gym (wall, floor, ceiling and behind the bleachers), both entry ways (including the stairs), the lobby, and the 2 bathrooms. Norman will send the email.
- b. Programming-Pickleball will be using Saturday mornings as they did last winter in the gym. Tai Chi was not renting the gym last winter but has expressed interest in doing so this winter. Norman will communicate with Tai Chi (Stefani Gelfan) and see what they are thinking. There may have to be some time adjustments for each program.
- c. Outdoor Courts- Mary Lou voiced her recurring concern for the deteriorating condition of the outdoor courts. Norman will speak to the court installer and get an assessment. He asked that Mary Lou resend the pictures of the compromised areas. The growth on the side of the court toward the Eaton home still needs to be addressed before the court surface becomes compromised. Norman had spoken with Mark Shippee and will follow up.
- d. Indoor Courts- the gym dead spots still need to be addressed and Norman will follow up with the company that did the last repair and ask them to take a look.

Mary Lou brought up the ongoing issue with the bleachers. The newer bleachers are still locked up and unusable due to broken and missing parts that control their ability to move in and out safely and lock in place. The committee agreed that the bleachers should be fixed, and a bleacher repair company contacted.

Mary Lou brought up the issue of roller shades in the gym. Pickleball needs the shades down and they are broken so can't be raised or lowered. The committee agreed that the roller shades are unsightly, supplemented by purple fabric strung up in places and the issue needs to be addressed. The protective metal grates

make it difficult to get to the shades and they are mounted too high up to safely evaluate ourselves. Stefan offered to try to locate a company that deals with roller shades and see if these could be repaired with perhaps new spring mechanisms and pull-down strings on the gym side of the metal grates.

- e. Outdoor parking lot lighting- the light is still out. Norman will ask Bill Buck.
- f. TAB room and other areas used for storage- The committee walked the Tab room and the basement storage area. The TAB room still needs cleaning. Diana reported that over the summer Greg Lily from the school had borrowed some of the basketball hoops which are designated for the youth basketball program, and they had not been returned. Diana did not know what he was using them for but would follow up. The committee evaluated the potential for storing the town voting equipment in the TAB room to free up space in the basement for ping pong. (It was decided that using the TAB room for this purpose was not a good use of its space.) Room #1 (of 3) of the 3 adjacent basement storage rooms contains voting equipment, misc. town decorations and was deemed to be too small for 2 ping pong tables. Room #2 (of 3) was in the worst shape of the 3 and deemed to be too small for ping pong. Room #3 (of 3) needed clean up but seemed the most suitable. There may need to be some partitioning of space, lighting changes and most importantly a working exit for safety. There was also a discussion about the stored items (who owned what, was it a repository for things that would never be used again?) No decisions were made, but room #3 was determined to be the best choice for ping pong. The committee also looked at the locked closet opposite the gym, which is mostly empty and decided it was too small for the voting equipment.

The committee agreed that the building heat pumps seemed to be working well. John Walsh was still evaluating the settings and fine tuning them. He welcomed input from programs who use the gym. John offered to come to a meeting and walk through the installation and controls with the committee. Norman will invite him to the next meeting.

Mary Lou requested new purchases for the outdoor program of an outdoor broom, 2 locks for the indoor storage lockers. This request was given the go ahead by Norman. Mary Lou also reported that the stairway light by the pickleball storage lockers was out again and has been for months. The bulb had been replaced and she believes the fixture needs to be replaced.

Mary Lou asked if there had been any noise complaints about pickleball and no one on the committee had received any complaints.

6 (labeled 7 on the agenda) Next meeting, Wednesday, October 11th 6:30pm at the Cowell

Shelburne Falls Recreation Committee Meeting 9-13-2023

Pickleball Update-

Sessions continue outdoors with an occasional move indoors due to the weather. There is growing angst about Covid, indoor play and winter play. There have been 2 lessons in the last 3 weeks. There continues to be requests for more lessons and Jay and I struggle to find times that work for us and times that work for the people who are inquiring.

Evening play (Mon & Wed) numbers are up a bit with average about a dozen. Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings are strong with lows 12-15 and high of 34. Saturday mornings are still low numbers ranging around 6-11. Saturday morning is run by volunteers.

August Community Mixer/potluck was a huge success with 25 players and 10 spectators. We started in sunshine and finished in the dark. The event signup was restricted to those who play regularly; 55 invites were sent.





Mary Lou Gallup

Items for Meeting Agenda

Old Business-

- Gym Cleaning
- Programming
- Outdoor Court Assessment and Repair and Infill
- Outdoor Court-Invasive weeds
- Outdoor Court-Backboard
- Indoor gym floor- dead spots
- Indoor gym bleachers
- Indoor gym shades
- Outdoor entry lighting (parking lot light, court light, entry light)
- TAB room and other storage areas that are used for recreation program storage
- Money Collection -missing money

New Business-

- Building Temperature, comfort, air flow, Controls
- Animals on outdoor courts
- Pickleball Equipment
 - Outdoor Broom
 - Locks
 - Light in back stairway