

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 9-11-24

Attending: members Diana Hardina, Mary Lou Gallup, Stefan Topolski, and Norman Beebe, Cowell Director John Walsh, and guests Jay Readinger and Mark Eaton

1----- Approve minutes for June

2---- Outdoor courts; repair and maintenance – Jay and Mary Lou bring forward a plan to have volunteers fill the cracks, prior to winter, with an acrylic latex made for court repair. It's fortified with mineral fillers, fibers and silica sand. Originally, we had thought to engage the highway department to fill the larger cracks but Jay feels it would be better to tackle the project with volunteers and not engage the highway department whose expertise is in road repair and not court repair. Jay warns the committee that this may not look pretty but should be effective in preventing further deterioration over the winter. We approve this. Norman will get the go ahead from Terry.

3---- Community Preservation Act grant request: bulletin boards, outdoor courts (infill, lining, shade) Mary Lou and Jay bring forward a proposal for three projects – see attachment. We approve going forward with the pre-application as presented with the addition of an outdoor water station added to the second paragraph of the Second Project. This pre-application which is due by September 15th just asks the CPA committee if the proposed projects are eligible for CPA funding. This is just the first step in the CPA grant process. If the projects are eligible, we would then have to cost them out and decide which ones to actually seek CPA funds for.

4---- Pickleball – approve purchase of four dozen indoor balls. The indoor schedule starting November 3rd will be as follows: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30-10:30am, 10:45-12:45pm, Monday, Wednesday 6-8pm (will move to 7-9pm when the Cowell Youth Winter Program starts), Saturday 8:15-10:15am (will move to 9am if Tai Chi doesn't return and may add a second session if numbers warrant starting at 8:30am). Mary Lou would also like to start a league with alternating instructional sessions on Friday evenings – Fridays use to be reserved for volley ball but it is currently not active.

5---- Indoor soccer and shooting hoops – Diana would like to start an adult indoor soccer similar to adult basketball to run on a weekend afternoon (maybe 3pm on Saturday). Diana also would like to offer a drop-in time where folks could shoot hoops. She would also look to do this on the weekend. We give Diana the go ahead to put together a flyer and to start it on a trial basis when she's ready. This may have to wait until late October when her work schedule lets up.

6---- Ping Pong room – Diana is looking to paint the floor in the ping pong room in late October. We approve the purchase of the paint needed to do this.

7---- Cowell Facilities Director report – see John's attached report.

Fees collected so far for this fiscal year (July 1st- September 11th) total \$1,792 – pickleball \$941, Tuesday night basketball \$271, Thursday night basketball \$526, private rentals \$54.

John says he looking to apply for money to upgrade the lighting in the gym.

John will be away for 12 days in Oct./Nov. and Jan./Feb. He also tells us he may not continue as Cowell Director past the end of December. If he does leave he may have ideas as to who could replace him.

8--- Concerns about gym use and abuse: doors unlocked, lights on, scoreboard, equipment/chairs left out, debris, personal items, mopping – we discuss these concerns briefly. John is aware of the issues. John says Paul who has been cleaning the gym has quit and that there was a lapse in coverage. The town has since contracted with someone else. John also reports that the scoreboard is regularly used by Thursday night basketball.

9--- Arms Field maintenance – Norman reports that Kyle Canepari suggests we treat the ballfield with an emergent in the spring to prevent the return of crab grass. Stefan says crab grass has already come up in the infield and that it needs to be dealt with. Norman will talk to Kyle and Terry about how to proceed.

10--- Cowell Calendar – This leads to a general discussion about communication and our website. We've not been using our email list serve or Facebook to get the word out about our programs. Norman and Diana will work on this.

11-- Cowell Gym cleaning – we'd like to get quotes to see what this would cost and then decide how to proceed. Norman will send John the information (scope of work, suggested cleaning services), and John will get quotes.

12-- Programs: management, standardizations of monthly reports, interruptions – we table this for our next meeting

13-- Any other business or updates – Tai Chi would like a reduced rate to use the gym on Saturday mornings. Given it's a private rental the committee does not support this. Norman will talk to Stephanie and see if given this decision they would like to still rent the gym on Saturday mornings.

14-- Next meeting Wednesday, October 9th at 7 pm at the Cowell