

# Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 11-13-24

**Attending:** members Diana Hardina, Mary Lou Gallup, Stefan Topolski, and Norman Beebe, and Cowell Director John Walsh

1--- Approve/review meeting minutes for November

2--- Cowell Youth Winter Program will start on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The schedule will be as follows: Monday basketball for grades 1 and 2, Tuesday basketball kindergarten, Wednesday soccer grades 5-6, Thursday basketball grades 3-4, Friday family pizza and play night. Youth programs will continue to be free but Friday will require either a donation or a \$10 fee per family to cover the cost of the pizza (to be decided by Diana). Times tentatively 5:30 to 6:30 but may be pushed back to 5:45 to 6:45 to accommodate individual coaches' needs. Long discussion about when adult basketball and pickleball can start in the evening. We decide adult programs can start 15 minutes after the end of a children's program.

3--- Cowell Facilities Director report – see attached report. John says Charlemont Academy will be in the gym M, Tu, Th 3:45-5:10, W 2-3:10. He's not yet heard back from Four Rivers. John says the Clothes Closet is now open two Saturdays a month when the Food Pantry is closed which means users have to enter through the ping pong room which is less than ideal. Issues raised by Mary Lou include: 1- phone in lobby is illegal because you can't require dial 9 before 911 – John will discuss this with Terry, 2- coat rack in lobby filled with stuff left behind – John will put this in a bin in the lobby, if not picked up in 2 to 3 weeks he'll donate what remains to the Clothes Closet, 3- separate box needed for AED equipment, and 4- chairs are not being returned to the TAB room – given our ADA compliant bleachers are still not repaired it's decided to leave some chairs in the lobby, five in the corner of the gym, and the rest in the TAB room.

4--- Updates

\*Arms Field maintenance – neither the town nor Canepari's Landscaping are licensed to treat the infield with Roundup. (The Roundup treatment was discussed at our October meeting. It was suggested by Kyle Canepari to deal with the crab grass that has appeared in the infield.) Norman is waiting to hear back from Snow's

\* Outdoor court repair – Mary Lou says they've completed about 80% of the repairs. They're hoping for one more warm day to finish the job.

\* Volleyball – Stefan still working on equipment and hoping to start up again.

\* Community Preservation Act grant request – initial projects approved for go ahead. Detailed submissions due on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Long discussion about whether the committee should have any input or even be privy to what is being submitted. Mary Lou says we need to contact Jay if we want details on what is being submitted. Norman will do so and share what he learns via email so we can discuss this at our next meeting.

\* Pickleball – Mary Lou proposes changing the fee structure as follows: free for 16 and 17 year olds, seniors 60 plus free, monthly fee non-residents \$30, residents \$15. Our current fee structure is as follows: under 16 free, residents \$2, nonresidents \$5, monthly pickleball rate \$35. We don't come to a consensus and will discuss this at our next meeting.

\* Adult basketball – tabled

\* Recreation Committee communication (website, Mailchimp, Facebook) – tabled

5--- Programs: management, standardizations of monthly reports, interruptions – tabled

6--- No other business or updates

7--- Next meeting Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

## Director Report

Date: November 13, 2024

Submitted By John Walsh Cowell Gym Director

Subject: Report to Cowell Recreation Committee

1. Exterior painting of north, west and south entrances has been completed.
2. The fence around compressors to reduce sound has been completed.
3. Quotes for basement window replacement have been delayed for a variety of reasons. The quotes will need to be done through the State procurement system and John hopes to move that forward within ten days.
4. John is in the process of contacting an EVERSOURCE preferred contractor to investigate replacing existing lighting throughout the building as well as the mechanized insulated shade in the gym to see if additional incentives are available.
5. There have continued to be no security issues with missing funds since the camera and signs were installed.
6. Due to being called away for storm damage assessment and vacation, John has not sought quotes for the cleaning of the building. He will do so over the next several weeks.
7. The Academy in Charlemont will continue to rent the gym beginning in December through the end of February four days a week with a break for the last 2 weeks in December. There has been no word from Four Rivers as to their intentions.
8. Due to John's absence, the collections report will be delayed until the next meeting. He has one additional deposit to make before Friday.
9. There has been 1 request to rent the gym for a birthday party on December 7, 2024.

Respectful submitted,

John Walsh  
Director  
Cowell Gymnasium