

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 1-8-25

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

1--- Call to order

* Appointment of secretary pro-tem - Stefan Topolski appointed secretary pro-tem

* Review/approve meeting minutes for December - Mary Lou Gallup notified committee of her recording the proceedings and Stefan asked if these would be made available to all members to which Mary Lou affirmed yes. Mary Lou made motion to delay minutes which was not seconded. Minutes approved 3:1.

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

* West County Food Pantry - Mary Lou moved to remove item as this is not a program. Food pantry may not have grant money to continue June 2025. After discussion that it supports recreation and is recreation because elders and children may not have food which is needed to recreate and eating may be last recreation available to our oldest neighbors, the pantry program remains in agenda 4:0.

There was discussion of the efficiency of 8 minutes of time spent on procedural maneuvering vs the time needed to discuss the program and remain on schedule for our 8pm visiting speaker.

* Cowell Facilities Director report - New heat pump system has already broken, leak diagnosed with refrigerant lost, back to burning oil. Discussion around maintenance budget, window replacement, water blanket to TAB wall, desire to preserve historical architecture.

* Volleyball - Discussed more marketing. Vote to make pilot volleyball times available Friday and Saturday evenings passed 4:0.

* Cowell Youth Winter Program - Groups are running for grades K, 1/2 and 3/4 basketball with good turnouts approximately 8-10 children each session. Indoor soccer for grades 5-6 has had little or no attendance. Friday family pizza night after a good start did not run last week, and needs to be canceled for this coming Friday but will hopefully resume on the 17th.

* Pickleball – fund raising and event schedule – Mary Lou is looking to raise \$2000 as outlined in the CPA grant request for adding two additional pickleball courts. She would like to hold special pickleball events (such as glow in the dark), where participants would be charged \$10 or \$20. We are unclear on how we can raise the money while keeping the funds separate from user fees. Maybe as donations? We vote 4:0 to give Mary Lou the go ahead to schedule the events and to investigate how we can handle these funds with Town Hall.

* Gym Floor - Floor mopping in the corners is a mess. Renters are not caring for building and may need a renter's guide or checklist. Mary Lou to propose a checklist. Balls are in vent, a block is needed, John will make it. Nails are protruding. Hardware is exposing and dead spots are growing to be a significant problem. Vote for Mary Lou to investigate repairs was approved 4:0.

* Adult basketball – Tuesday and Thursday still active, Sunday which was used by members from the Thursday group is no longer utilized.

* Ping pong - No new news.

* Ice skating - Stefan needs help paying for water, cannot use the water department's supplied meters as they drop the pressure and outflow too low, meters only save the sewer cost and not the supply side cost, the weather has been perfect and the rink will be ready to open in 2 days.

* Open gym - Committee approved open gym from 2-3pm on vacation weeks. Owner and marketing were TBD.

3--- Ongoing business

* Letter to Community Preservation Committee regarding CPA grant request submitted by Shelburne Falls Pickleball - Committee wants to prioritize the outdoor courts as highest value to town. Letter approved 4:0. Norman will send letter to Will Flanders, chair of CPC, and copy committee members.

* Programs: management, standardizations of monthly reports - tabled due to time

* Committee membership - tabled due to time

* Committee processes - tabled due to time

4--- New business

* Shelburne Emergency Management Director, Tom Williams, joins us at 8 pm to discuss possible use of the Cowell as an emergency shelter and storage space - video shared and discussed. The gym while old, is solid, above the flood plain, easily accessed with abundant parking in area, and near a commercial kitchen across the street at the Trinity Church. Committee expressed general support for official designation as an emergency shelter. (Some members thought we were already approved and used for emergency services – turns out we are currently just used for storage.) If we were to be designated as an emergency shelter, Tom would need to purchase an emergency generator and would need additional storage. He feels confident that he could meet his storage needs by sharing use of the two rooms before the ping pong room and the unheated room attached to the ping pong room. These storage spaces are currently being used by Tom, Joe Judd (for town elections equipment), and for the town's holiday lights. Tom is looking into shelving options (to make the most of our storage space) and will also be looking in to ways to protect the gym floor when needed as a shelter – possibly carpeting.

5--- Any other business that is time sensitive and not on the agenda - tabled due to time

6--- Correspondence/visitor comments - see above and remainder tabled due to time

7--- Next meeting Wednesday, February 12th at 7 pm and possibly a second meeting around February 26 to complete pending discussions.