

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 2-12-25

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

When: 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at the Cowell Gym

Requested by: Norman Beebe

Agenda:

1--- Call to order

* Review/approve meeting minutes for January – minutes approved 3-0 with addition of language to be added about shelving under meeting with Shelburne's Emergency Management Director, Tom Williams.

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

* Cowell Facilities Director report – see written report. John plans to step down on June 30th.

* Cowell Youth Winter Program – the Kindergarten and grades 1-2 basketball groups, and Friday Pizza Night are going well. Each group is averaging ten participants. The grades 3-4 basketball group has been meeting regularly and averaging five children per session. The 5-6th indoor soccer group has been suspended due to lack of interest. Diana plans to offer ping pong to this group starting on Wednesday, March 5th.

* Pickleball – Norman reports we can deposit any funds raised through special pickleball events in our donation account. Funds in this account can be spent at our direction. We have a special form to use for these deposits.

* Adult basketball – John reports the Thursday group is running strong and usually has 20 to 25 people. The Tuesday group waxes and wanes and is currently in a wane moment but Diana is confident this will turn around.

* Volleyball – Stefan reports the smaller net has been used during Friday Pizza Nights for four-on-four play.

* Ping pong – Diana with the help of a volunteer (a houseguest from Egypt) has put down a first coat on the floor. The walls have been primed.

* Ice skating – Stefan reports that there have been 41 visits. Currently the rink is covered with snow and Stefan has been seeking volunteers to assist with snow removal on Facebook. He's had one person volunteer but they won't be able to help until next week.

* Open gym – next week Monday through Friday from 2 to 3 for grades K-6. Stefan will staff it. Diana wonders if Fred Redeker would be interested in having the gym available for basketball at 1 to 2 or 3 to 4. We approve her offering those times to him.

* Softball – Norman reached out to other towns in West County to see if there's interest in resurrecting our grades 4-6 softball league. It will be brought up at a baseball meeting for all the towns in West County. Norman will follow up.

3--- Ongoing/pressing business

* Bleachers – we agree 3-0 that the wood bleachers should be secured and locked in the upright position and only used by those who have been trained to lower and raise them. Currently only the two high school groups are trained to use them.

* Committee membership – we have one vacant position. This means we'll have two positions available for the May town election, a three-year term (the vacant position) and a five-year term (the position Diana currently occupies).

* Programs: management, standardizations of monthly reports – tabled

* Committee processes – tabled

4--- Any other business that is time sensitive and not on the agenda – the budget. This will be dealt with at our additional February meeting.

5--- Correspondence/visitor comments – none

6--- Try to schedule an additional February meeting – we agree to schedule an additional meeting for Wednesday, February 26th at 7 pm. The primary focus of this meeting will be the budget.

7--- Next regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, March 12th at 7 pm.

Director Report

Date: February 12, 2025

Submitted By John Walsh, Cowell Gym Director

Subject: February 2025 Report to the Cowell Gymnasium Recreation Committee

1. The Town Finance Committee is currently meeting with all departments to review FY 2026 budget proposals. I will be updating my phase 2 budget request for capital improvements which include major repairs to the Tab Room addition and slate roof repairs over the entrances. My back of the envelope will be in the range of \$35 -\$40 k. I have spoken with Tom Williams and agreed to add \$3,000 to my request to place shelves in the basement to clear more floor space.
2. The last issue with the mini splits was a result of turning off the squeaky head in the gym which resulted in a communication error in the controls. That has been corrected. I have turned on the oil system as a backup and set the thermostat in the gym to 55 for the oil and 62 for the mini-splits which should keep the gym warmer should the mini-splits not be able to keep up in extremely cold temperature. Hopefully we have seen the last of the extreme cold.
3. Collections continue to be delayed in transferring the funds to the Town Collector. Fees need to be handed over weekly, or at a minimum bi-weekly to the Town Collector. By the Director
4. I have been updating the on-line calendar.
5. Request for basement window replacement quotes, as well as other single pane windows in office, south entrance and attic have been posted on State Central Register as of today and documents will be uploaded to Town Website by Thursday 2/13/2025. Quotes will be due in early March with completion by the end of May
6. John has met with the Municipal Program administrator for EVERSOURCE who met at the Cowell to perform a lighting audit.
7. There have continued to be no security issues with missing funds since the camera and signs were installed.
8. The Academy in Charlemont is renting the gym through the end of February four days a week until 2/27/25. Four Rivers will be renting the gym on Friday afternoon 2/28/25 and again the following week to practice volleyball. John requests assistance in setting up the nets on Friday the 28th.
9. Palmeri Electric has not yet found a replacement for the ceiling fixture ballast in the gym gym.
10. There was an incident in the Gym when a student from the Academy received a minor shock when he tried to turn on the switch using a bobby pin. He did not suffer any injuries. I had the Athletic Director send me an incident report and had the switch replaced. I recommend leaving the key in place for now until spare keys can be ordered. Based on input from Diana, I would recommend giving a spare key to both The Academy and Four Rivers at the start of their seasons. However, the key can be left in the container stored in the Tab room and a spare left in the office.
11. Finally, I will be submitting my resignation to the Selectboard effective June 30, 2025. I intend to follow through with both the window and shade projects if they are not completed by that time. Thank you for the opportunity to part of your team!

Respectful submitted,

John Walsh
Director Cowell Gymnasium

7--- Next regular meeting Wednesday, March 12th at 7 pm