

# Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for 4-9-25

**Attending:** members Diana Hardina, Stefan Topolsk (by phone), and Norman Beebe, and Cowell Director John Walsh

1--- Call to order

- \* Appointment of secretary pro-tem – Diana appointed
- \* Review/approve meeting minutes for March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting – approved

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

\* Cowell Director's report – mini-splits shut down due to lack of maintenance. This is something that should be scheduled regularly. John will talk to Terry about having this done on an annual basis. The window replacement is on going and will be completed soon. The energy saving shades for the gym are slated to be completed in May.

\* Basketball – Tuesday over 35 group: the number of participants ranges from 9 to 13.  
Thursday 18+ group : Diana did a spontaneous interview with 3 players from this group, age 18 plus. They are interested in having the floor resurfaced and want to do a fundraiser for the cost of the project. There were 20 players and they use the clock to time eight-minute games. This group has little contact with the committee and Diana encouraged them to contact the committee with any needs. That group communicates through Facebook messaging and they have 38 members. Diana was able to track down the cost of refinishing the gymnasium floor. The last time it was refinished, it was done by Dion Flooring in 2017 and the cost was \$6,000.00, which included wood repair and three coats of urethane. Also, a plan is afoot to collect email addresses so we can include them in our Chimpmail information.

\* Pickleball – see attached report

\* Gym floor – the last paragraph of the pickleball report leads into a discussion of the floor. Cupped boards and protruding nails are a problem with no easy stopgap fix. The Selectboard and Finance Committee have approved \$40,500 for Cowell Gymnasium Deferred Maintenance including the gym floor, TAB Room, bleachers, and electrical needs.

\* Ping pong – Three proctors have come forward to offer hours in May. Another citizen thought we should have a 3rd table. We will advertise as soon as we get a committed schedule, and consider having an open house. Diana posted a request to call the phone at the gym if proctors were interested. John announced the phone is not working.

\* River trail – the surveyor has reported that there is no record of the town abandoning Mill Road. This could aid the town in its effort to access the two plots of town land along the Deerfield River.

\* Any other updates that are time sensitive

3--- Ongoing/pressing business

\* FY25 expenditures – a discussion of equipment expenses that we agreed to explore are a lockable case for ping pong equipment, a digital-programmable door lock, paint for ping pong room, badminton equipment, storage cubicles, and a dispenser for filling water bottles in the basement.

\* Committee membership – Diana has taken out papers to again serve for a five-year term.

\* Community Preservation Committee representative – Norman has agreed to be the Shelburne Recreation committee representative.

\* Committee processes – Norman spoke to Joe Judd, the Town Clerk. Joe said we should hold an election for committee chair and secretary after the May election. If no one steps forward to be the secretary on an ongoing basis, appointment of a secretary pro-tem at each meeting is acceptable. He also shared a guide for posting meetings and filing minutes.

\* Agenda items for May, and June meetings – Diana met with Elisabeth Chadwick who is resurrecting the website ShelburneFalls.com which lists events and activities. We will invite her to a committee meeting in May or June.

4--- Any other business that is time sensitive and not on the agenda – we have two applicants to replace John as Cowell Gym Director. Norman will share their information. We will interview them at the May or June meeting. Interview questions should be sent to Norman. Norman is waiting to hear back from Joe Judd about whether we are up to date with our conflict of interest/ethics training.

5--- Correspondence/visitor comments – none

6--- Next regular meeting Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Date: April 9, 2025  
To: Shelburne Recreation Committee  
From: Mary Lou Gallup, Shelburne Falls Pickleball  
Subject: Pickleball Report

Pickleball is transitioning to outdoor play as weather and light allow. Evening sessions likely won't move outdoors until later this month or early May. As was the case in previous years, outdoor sessions will move indoors in inclement weather (wet or windy).

Morning outdoor sessions are currently scheduled for 9-11, but as the summer weather arrives play will gradually move to 8AM except Sundays which will start at 9.

Almost all sessions have been full, with occasional waitlists of 1-4 people and occasional open spots of 1-5 people.

Two April beginner lessons are scheduled; one has 4 people signed up and the other 2 people.

Once again, we've had to replace the outdoor storage box lock as non-commercial locks do not weather well and become increasingly hard to open even after using graphite lubricant.

The outdoor key lock box is difficult to use, and several volunteers have had trouble operating it.

Two temporary signs have been placed on the outdoor court fencing and a schedule on the door to the gym.

Players have reported their movement being affected by the nails in the floor and now by the tape residue on the edges of the white volleyball end line tape. The tape residue in particular is of concern as it causes one foot to suddenly slow when a player is moving fast on the court. This can put undue pressure on ankles and knees. For safety, the two white volleyball endlines need to be removed and the residue cleaned up. I have reported the issue to John Walsh.