

Shelburne Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2021

Present: Norman Beebe, Diana Hardina, Stefan Topolski, Jackie Walsh

The meeting began at 6:30.

1. Stefan gave a report on the ice skating rink he created in his yard. He had good ice for 9 weeks this winter and there were over 200 visits to the rink. In addition, Diana secured many pairs of free skates which Stefan put out for skaters to take. Bill Buck gave Stefan some great advice on how to keep the surface smooth. Next year Stefan will put down the tarp we purchased before flooding his yard.
2. Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership: Grants are available from this partnership. Shelburne has successfully applied for these funds in the past two years.
3. Community Preservation Act: Norm reported that Shelburne is considering joining this. It would assess a 0.5 to 3 percent surcharge on property tax bills - exemptions can be given based on income and/or on the first \$100,000 of taxable property value. The money is matched or partially matched by state money raised from surcharges on real estate transaction. Only communities who opt into the program are eligible for these funds. Communities who opt for the 3% surcharge are eligible for more matching funds. (In 2014 Conway voted to raise their surcharge to 3% with an exemption on the first \$100,000 on property value in order to receive more matching funds.) The money raised can be used for open space/recreation, historic preservation, and community housing.
4. Girls softball: Little League is happening but there's been no word on whether the girls' softball league, Hilltown Softball League, is happening. Norman will investigate.
5. There is a vacancy on the Recreation Committee. Those interested could contact us. Jackie said she'd put something on Facebook about it.
6. The 2021 town election will be held on June 28th at the Cowell.
7. Jackie and Diana would like to work on Jackie's idea of having a recreational activity where participants meet on a regular basis with the goal of walking every road in town. According to Diana, there are 52 miles of road. Jackie would like to include stops at points of interest, such as the Wheel-view Farm.
8. Pickleball: Jackie and Diana put out lines in chalk on our basketball and tennis courts and one couple actually played! Norm is going to get prices on painting the lines.
9. River Trail: Right now, the plan is for a short out and back trail along the Deerfield River. It would start at the end of Deerfield Avenue and would end before the Sweetheart Restaurant. It would allow residents to access the two parcels of town land along the river. The trail continues to face strong opposition from an abuttor who doesn't want a formal trail below their property. The Open Space Committee is continuing to gather information on the trail's feasibility.
10. We discuss what should go into the committee's annual town report.
11. We set our next meeting date for Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.