**RECREATION COMMITTEE TOWN REPORT 2012-2013**

We are happy to report that the Recreation Committee, which last year was down to two members, is now at full strength!  Joining Diana Hardina and Norman Beebe are Doug Martin, who was voted in at the town’s June election; Julie Dubreuil, who was appointed in September; and Emily Schoelzel, who was appointed in January. This past year we also updated the list of responsibilities for the Cowell Gym Director and interviewed candidates.  In November, Emily Crehan was appointed to the position.  Emily’s presence has been a welcome addition to the Cowell.

The primary responsibility of the Recreation Committee is to provide and facilitate recreational opportunities within our community.  This past year, in addition to sponsoring Shelburne Falls Girls Softball for grades 2-6, and the Cowell Youth Basketball Program for grades K-6, we sponsored West County Soccer for grades K-6.  West County Soccer was a huge success, with approximately 120 children participating from the West County area.  During the winter months we offered the following activities at the Cowell Gym: a senior walk three mornings a week, adult basketball three nights a week (both competitive and relaxed), and an evening of volleyball.  All of these events were open to the public and well attended. The senior walk was free and the other activities had a $5 per session fee.  We have also sponsored open gym for the community during school vacation weeks and on school snow days. The Cowell has been rented by outside groups for uses ranging from soccer practice to birthday parties to school physical education classes and team practices.

This past summer volunteers reconfigured the outdoor basketball courts at the Cowell and a summer basketball program was held there for the first time in years.  Unfortunately, the reconfiguration made the courts unusable for tennis, but we are working on restoring tennis as an option.  The town brought in contractors to successfully remediate the Cowell’s basement mold problem and is now soliciting bids to have the gym floor refinished for the first time in many years.

The Recreation Committee is working on developing a communications strategy so that townspeople can easily find out what recreational opportunities are available in town and nearby.  We are in the process of updating the recreation committee information on the town website. There are existing Facebook pages for Cowell Gym and the West County Soccer program. We are finalizing plans to offer a series of *Challenger Sports™* soccer camps for preschool - high-school age children this coming summer as well as coaching clinics next fall.

The Recreation Committee would like to thank the people of Shelburne, in particular the Select Board and the Shelburne Highway Department, for their ongoing support. Highway Department foreman Mark Shippee has been instrumental in making repairs and maintaining the Cowell Gymnasium.