**RECREATION COMMITTEE TOWN REPORT 2013-2014**

The Recreation Committee continues to be at full strength and all of our members have now been elected! The members of the committee are Diana Hardina, Doug Martin, Emily Schoelzel, Julie Dubreuil and Norman Beebe. Emily Crehan, Cowell Gym Director, completed her first full year in the position, and continues to provide caring oversight of the Cowell Gym. Emily’s input on both the Cowell and recreation in general has proven invaluable to the committee.

The primary responsibility of the Recreation Committee is to provide and facilitate recreational opportunities within our community.  This past year, in addition to sponsoring the Cowell Youth Basketball Program for grades K-6, Shelburne Falls Girls Softball for grades 2-6, and West County Soccer for grades K-6, we hosted two week-long *Challenger Sports™* Soccer Camps with over 90 children participating.

During the fall and winter months we offered the following ongoing activities at the Cowell Gym: a senior walk three mornings a week, adult basketball three nights a week (both competitive and relaxed), an evening of volleyball, and most recently futsal (an indoor variant of soccer). All of these activities were open to the public and well attended. The senior walk was free and the other activities had a $3 per child or $5 per adult session fee. Additionally, we held two events at the Cowell: a Halloween dance for people of all ages and a New Year’s Eve celebration, Early Night, for seniors and families with elementary age children. Both events were successful. 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 exercise classes (offered by the Greenfield YMCA) to birthday parties to school physical education classes and team practices.

This past summer David DeLorenzo and other volunteers restored tennis to the outdoor basketball courts at the Cowell. Also over the summer, the Cowell Gym got a sprucing up! The town brought in a contractor to refinish the gym’s floor for the first time in many years and replaced the wall pads. This winter, ice skating returned to the Cowell’s outdoor courts. The committee wants to give a special shout-out to Frank Field for his tireless efforts to keep the courts flooded.

The Recreation Committee took the lead in developing the recreation portion of the recently-completed Open Space and Recreation Plan, which will hopefully be adopted at this year’s annual town meeting. We hope this plan will provide a blueprint for how we’ll proceed as a committee in the years ahead.

The Recreation Committee would like to thank the people of Shelburne, in particular the Select Board and Mark Shippee, Shelburne Highway Department foreman, for their ongoing support.