

Shelburne Recreation Committee Minutes
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 6:00 PM
DRAFT

Members Present: Peggy Coutu, Erin Fina, Kelli Magnier, Ann Clark, Hayley Cimler, Susan McLellan

Staff Present: Betsy Cieplicki

Meeting called to order by Peggy at 6:00 pm.

Minutes from Dec. 12, 2022 Meeting: Copies of the minutes were not available and most members had not had time to review, minutes will be reviewed at the next Rec. Meeting.

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

Office Update: Betsy's office hours for January may change day to day as they are dealing with a family health issue. If you need to reach Betsy and don't hear back, please feel free to reach out to Sue Craig for immediate assistance.

Our main focus in the office this month is setting up and planning all of our spring and summer programs and camps, as well as summer concerts. Betsy has been booking bands and contacting instructors. As details get finalized, we will publish a brochure and hope to open registration in Feb.

Beach House Project Update: The Request for Proposal has gone out and we hope to get some bidders to engage in the project. The deadline to bid is Feb. 10, 2023.

Program Update: Youth Basketball games are under way and our participation numbers are strong! We have 125 kids playing this year in grades 1st – 6th. Our Bolton Valley After School Program starts in 2 weeks. We have a full bus for both sessions, with 50 kids in each (100 total). We also have winter sessions of Tai Chi and CrossFit Kids kicking off shortly.

Ann inquired about how the Selectboard responded to the budget proposal the Rec Committee gave for 15% increase in programming fees after they asked we increase revenues. Betsy responded that it seemed it went over well and she expects that it will move forward as proposed in the final budget proposal.

Special Event Review and Planning: Betsy presented the list of 2023 Special Events expected, and invited comments on changes, additions and improvements. The following are the Annual events planned and the discussion and comments that ensued.

Jan.	Winter Carnival cancelled
Feb. 10	Me & My Special Person Valentine Dance
June ?	Back to the Beach
July 12	Summer Concert Series at Shelburne Farms: Tenderbellies
July 19	Summer Concert Series at Shelburne Farms: In the Pocket
July 26	Summer Concert Series at Shelburne Farms: TBA (local)
Aug. 1	Summer Concert Series Finale with Fireworks @ VT Bear: TBA
Oct. 29	Halloween Event
Dec. 1	Tree Lighting Holiday Event

Discussion continued from last meeting about the Winter Carnival and the viability of continuing. The event has changed drastically since we no longer are able to offer it at Shelburne Farms. Unpredictable weather has played a significant role in planning for the event, and limited indoor space has drastically affected the new format. Consideration is being given to changing this to a different type of event or continuing in the future.

Members discussed who would be available to help work at the Me & My Special Person Valentine dance on Feb. 10, and what role they would provide. Commitments to help were received from Hayley, Erin, Peggy and Ann.

The date for Back to the Beach was discussed. It's normally the Tuesday after school ends, as the first official day of the Beach season is that Monday. However, we are often still scrambling to clean and prepare everything, as well as train staff. Discussion led to changing the date to Thursday, June 22, 2023 which might work better for families as well toward the end of the week.

As summer concert bands were discussed, Peggy made the suggestion to offer a chance for local kids to play and perform. After discussing some of the challenges with that, the Committee decided that the Summer Concert series wasn't the best time to offer that opportunity, but that we would offer kids the opportunity to play acoustically at Back to Beach. A schedule and sign ups will be promoted as we get closer to the event. We also hope that will draw local families to attend, who know the kids that will be playing.

New event suggestions were also discussed. Although we would ideally offer an additional event in the spring between the Valentines Dance in February and Back to the Beach in June, the decision was made to plan for next year as there was not time to start a new event this spring, given restrictions with available facility dates. Ideas discussed included a Kids Craft Fair (similar to the PTO Craft fair that used to happen before COVID), a dog / pet parade, Shelburne Talent Show. Ann also mentioned and we discussed that people missed the Holiday Lights Contest. We'll consider how we might bring that back and make it feasible for the office staff work load, as it became too much with the Tree Lighting and Basketball going on in the same time frame. It was recognized that seniors really like this offering, especially those with limited mobility who can't walk around Shelburne Museum grounds.

2023 Goals and Overview:

Betsy asked the Committee Members for input on any goals or things they would like to accomplish this year, or improvements. Hayley would like to help start new traditions and events that are long lasting, like some of our other event staples such as the summer concerts, Halloween, etc. Susan commented that she would like to see more senior programming. Kelli would like to get more younger families and people involved in our events and committee, as our members are trending older. She also would love to see a pickleball tournament or programming. Hayley brought up a camp out event.

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.