

Shelburne Recreation Committee Minutes Wed, Jan. 31, 2024

Members Present: Kathie Pudvar, Bruce Whitbeck, Renee Davitt, Ann Clark
Peggy Coutu, Kelli Magnier, Ellie Johnson

Staff Present: Betsy Cieplicki

Public Present: None

Meeting called to order by Peggy at 5:30 pm.

Minutes from Nov 13th Meetings: Minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment: None

Director's Report: See full report attached at end. Summer programs are coming together. We added a new Musical Theatre Camp with Sean Moran. We let go of Lego Camp and Horse Camp. Lego camp required a 3 week commitment, which we would not be able to fulfill. Horse camp just hasn't sustained good numbers to continue. We've also added a new spring program of an Open gym time for Toddlers. We are piloting this program with volunteer help. It will be two Sundays a month from Feb. to May. Spring and summer program will go live for registration in early Feb., and the printed brochure to follow in early March.

Special Event Planning:

- *Winter Carnival* (Review)- Feedback and review. For food, soup was not ideal, beverages were missing. Time of day is not flexible on a Saturday due to gym availability with basketball. Sheep were popular. Suggestion for the Rec. Committee to offer an activity, movement oriented. Suggestion for handout of activities. Kelli suggested scavenger hunt or passport, perhaps to find hidden animals at each of the activities and reward with sticker or prize if they find them all. Also suggestion to sell Valentine Dance tickets at Winter Carnival.

- *Valentines Dance* (Feb. 9): Planning to volunteer are Kathie, Renee, Ellie, Bruce (clean up), Peggy. Bags need to be assembled when supplies come in. Kathie and Ann offered to help.

- *Back to the Beach / Ribbon Cutting:* Need to make sure Jeff McBride is available for the date (TBD). He has gone above and beyond contributing his time to the Beach house project. Discussion held on how best to recognize him. Will continue next meeting.

-Summer Concerts: Will be held July 10, 17, 24 at Shelburne Farms, and July 30 at Teddy Bear. 3 of the 4 bands are booked. Still need July 10. Kelli suggested the Smokey Newfield Project (Band).

Discussion held about the Fireworks and whether we should continue to offer them or change to another option. Betsy reported the information gathered regarding drone and laser shows used by other towns. Drone shows were clearly out of our budget range with a price tag of \$25,000 +. A laser show could be a possibility for under \$10,000, but there are location considerations that make our current site challenging. The laser show needs to have access to power or prices go up if it must be on generator. Bruce suggested we may be able to get ECI trucks to donate portable power. The lasers also need to be set up high above eye level on platforms. Given the layout at Teddy Bear where everyone watches the concert and light show from the hill, this would be difficult to achieve. There also may be restrictions next to the airport. Another option would be to celebrate the final concert of the series by adding other entertainment (a 2nd band for more music to start earlier, bounce house, etc.)

Motion was made to continue with plan for fireworks this year. Motion was approved (6 in favor of, 1 abstaining vote, 0 against)

Hullcrest Playground Project Update: The RFP has been issued and Bids are due Feb. 8. Site visits are scheduled in the upcoming week with potential bidders. We received permission from Tree warden to remove 3 overgrown cedar trees on one end of the playground near the parking area that is causing safety and visibility issues as they provide “screening” for unwanted behavior. We agreed to replace with 3 other trees elsewhere in the park with Tree Committee input on type and location.

Other Business: Bruce announced his resignation for personal reasons from the Committee, effective 2/29/24, after about 15 years as a member. His active volunteerism and positive, warm personality will be sorely missed, but we wish him well in his upcoming life adventures.

Ann noted that our numbers are dwindling, and we need to add more active members. Betsy will make efforts to get communications out and try to generate interest.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Directors Report Jan. 31, 2024

Recreation Committee Update: We are excited to welcome Ellie Johnson as a student rep to the committee this year! Ellie was a lifeguard at Shelburne Beach last summer, has participated in some of our programs in her youth, and has volunteered with the Recreation Department. She is currently a student at CVU and we are thrilled to have her on board!

Program Update: Basketball and skiing are underway! We have a Crossfit Kids afterschool program happening this winter and new sessions of Tai Chi that recently started up.

Parks Update:

Beach House Project – Since our last meeting in November, some major progress has been made! The structure is now up and in place including walls and roof. They have boarded up the windows and doors to weatherproof as they are now installing plumbing, mechanical and electrical items. Work will continue to progress this winter.

In addition to the Eagle Scout bridge in Bay Park, we have discovered other maintenance and repair needs on bridges in LaPlatte as well. Planning Director, Aaron DeNamur, is helping to assess the bridges and work with us and the Paths Committee to plan repairs and steps forward.