

Shelburne Recreation Committee Minutes Tues, Sept. 5, 2023

Members Present: Kathie Pudvar, Bruce Whitbeck, Renee Davitt, Ann Clark

* A quorum was not present

Staff Present: Betsy Cieplicki, Matt Lawless

Meeting called to order by Betsy at 6:05 pm.

Minutes from May 30 Meeting: Minutes were not approved as no quorum was present to vote.

Public Comment: No public present. Nancy Berger was expected but postponed until Oct. meeting to speak with the committee about fireworks presentation. Betsy is concerned about cost of drones or other methods. Also noted that two donations from residents came in to support the fireworks and special events after the event.

Director's Report: See attached at end. Short summary discussion held. We have 22 fall soccer teams and games start this Saturday. Betsy had a lot of difficulty getting soccer shirts ordered due to discontinued items and problems with low stock in certain sizes.

- In the parks, Kyle has been tackling a lot of maintenance issues on the trails. The new raised garden bed at Davis was a success and the volunteer committee has organized two free workshops for the public this fall.
- Dog Park Committee is not happy with the growth in the park that they can not maintain. Hardly anyone is using the park and interest is waning. Not other good spaces identified for the Dog Park. The Committee is coming to talk with Betsy on Sept. 11th.
- Hullcrest Park has seen some vandalism lately with graffiti, beer cans on property, and destruction of equipment. Betsy will ask Police to swing by more often to monitor.
- Beach passes sold were way down this year, most likely due to the rainy season and quality of water.
- Betsy noted that we had 40 paid staff over the summer in our department. Busy season!

Beach Project Update: The building will start to be demolished on Sept. 6. We have two volunteers to help with the landscape design and plan: Charlotte Albers and Gail Henderson-King. A Norway Maple tree (invasive species) has been identified in the project area with a recommendation to come down.

Capital Project Planning:

- ARPA funded projects approved and funds must be used by end of Dec. 2026. \$100,000 for baseball field improvements, \$100,000 for Tennis Court/ Pickleball court resurfacing and rearrangement, \$200,000 for Playgrounds (earmarked for Hullcrest), and \$250,000 Beach House Project.
- 2025-2026: No additional projects planned beyond the ARPA projects already approved.
- 2026-2030: Matt explained its helpful for him to hear ideas of projects that need to be considered in the near future. Betsy expressed that we may need to have the Beach wall evaluated again and the stairs need to be repaired. Will have CEA assess the wall. The Town Gym will need the floor replaced in the future as the wood cannot be refinished many more times. Betsy would like to see the old hoops replaced with new ones that lower so we can utilize for camps and programs with younger kids. Renee suggested looking at the gym as a whole to assess changes and upgrades needed, such as the storage area and compliant/ safe stair access to the stage from inside the gym. Bruce suggested a portable stage as we have discussed in the past to sue for Town concerts and events. Stage rentals are no longer fiscally feasible or attainable for our needs. Davis Park Court lights were also mentioned. The poles are leaning and lights need to be replaced/ upgraded to LED energy efficient down lights. Costs for this project 10 years ago were \$90,000, so expecting at least double that. Bruce suggested adding a skating rink in the winter there to increase the use year round. Challenges with setting up and maintaining it were discussed, and Hullcrest rink was mentioned for another option.

Special Event Planning:

- Halloween event is Oct. 29th. We plan to offer costume contest before the parade from 12 – 1pm. Rotary parade is at 2. Games in gym after the parade.
- Tree Lighting: Betsy plans to meet with Michael, the new Library Director, to confirm plans and format. Event is Friday, Dec. 1st in the evening.
- Winter Carnival has been approved to be held at the school! Betsy is working with them this month to schedule a date so we can start planning. Hoping for late January.

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Directors Report Sept. 5, 2023

Program Update: Since our last meeting in May, we have had had quite a few programs completed. Here's a snapshot of our summer programs with 237 kids participating!

Youth Programs:

- Tennis Lessons (3 camps) – 30
- Basketball Camp (3 camps) – 75
- Horse Camp – 3
- Redhawk Soccer Camp – 52
- Field Hockey Camp – 12
- Baseball Camp – 40
- Rocketry Camp – 6
- Lego Brick Q Motion – 9
- Swim lessons – 10
- Circus Camp – Cancelled due to low enrollment

Fall Soccer League 1st-6th grade (does not include Pre-school and Kindergarten soccer programs): 255 and 45+ volunteers!

Adult Programs:

- Pickleball lessons-23
- Table Tennis-16
- Community Gardens-15
- Self Defense Workshop - 15

Parks Update:

Kyle has been working on trail maintenance throughout the summer with work completed in areas on the Ti-Haul trail, Bay Park trail, and LaPlatte Nature Park trail. The raised garden bed project was completed at Davis Park and several pilot gardeners took advantage of the accessible space this summer! Check it out if you have a chance! They are also offering free workshops in Sept. and Oct.

Shelburne Beach - (Unofficial sales report and does not include group party fees): Season passes used: approx. 815
Day Passes used: approx. 273

Dog Park – The Dog Park Committee has been struggling with how to keep up the park and make it useable when they are not able to cut back growth and bush (except for invasives). Visits at the park are quite low, based on their voluntary attendance board that they are using to track people and dogs at the park. Costs for operating keep increasing with fence repairs,

invasive control and rising trash removal. They are considering options for other small dog park areas again, as well as considering whether to keep the park open at all.

Hullcrest Park – Recent vandalism has hit this park with lots of littering, smashed equipment and graffiti. We are working to clean it up and get ready for a playground upgrade with ARPA funding.

Office update: During the summer our little Department grows from 2 full time employees and a handful of contracted program instructors to around 40 paid staff! This includes 14 seasonal part time staff at the beach, 10+ contracted Camp/ program directors and approx. 15 camp counselors. In the fall, we switch gears from working with so many additional paid staff to working with over 45 volunteers with just one program.