

Shelburne Recreation Committee Minutes Mon., Oct. 16, 2023

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

Staff Present: Betsy Cieplicki

Public Present: Nancy Berger

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

Minutes from May 30th and Sept. 5th Meetings: Minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment: Nancy Berger spoke and wants to replace the traditional fireworks by a drone and/ or laser show. She explained how traditional fireworks are damaging to the environment, to wildlife, to pets, and to humans. She further described how the noise explosion impacts people with PTSD, mental illness, and autism. She quoted a therapist who wrote to her and supported that statement. She also reiterated that chemicals given off during the fireworks harm the environment and cause pollution. She has received many supportive emails following up on her FPF posts about the issue. Nancy is will to work with anyone who is interested on this issue. The Committee will table this topic while Betsy can do further research on the topic and discussion will resume when the summer special events planning begins.

Director's Report: See full report attached at end. Betsy briefly touched on current programs underway this fall. Also reported that Newberry cup was great and the Fire Dept. Pancake breakfast was a huge success.

Beach house project is going well and on schedule. Expect the main structure and interior walls should be finished by Dec.

Hullcrest Playground will be replaced using ARPA funds. Working on survey to get resident feedback before designing new playground. Looking for input on the survey from the Committee, as well as help in spreading the word about it. Plan to use constant Contact, FPF, and social media to help get survey out. Maybe will do a focus group after survey results. Betsy can show pictures of different playgrounds types and styles to help.

Betsy met with leaders from Champlain Valley Little League to begin discussion on the the field project, which is to be partially funded by ARPA money as well. Mostly work on the infields and mounds, but improving and leveling the outfield would also be included.

Special Event Planning:

- Halloween event is Oct. 29th. The following can help at event (Ann-costume contest, Kathie, Renee, Peggy). Bruce is not available. Kelli is not sure at this time.

-Tree Lighting is Fri., Dec. 1: Betsy was working with the Tree company to fix the lights on the tree. Santa is booked. We've connected with the bank for the elf hat donation. Will reach out to SD Ireland to request the holiday lighted truck.

-Winter Carnival is Sat., Jan. 20 from 1-3pm at SCS. We have the cafeteria and 2 gym spaces to use. The Big Blue Trunk is booked for games. Tried to book bounce house but price increased. Our budget is about \$1,000. Discussion held over what events and options we wanted to include and how we wanted outside groups to be involved. We definitely want the PTO involved and would prefer if they offer food as a fundraiser, but if they aren't interested in that, we can get vendors or outdoor food trucks. Hoping that many of the same groups will be interested in joining the event again, including Shelburne Farms, Rotary, Craft School, Library, Day School, Waldorf, etc. Also know a student who may be able to do balloon animals. We do not want to charge admission, though discussion did support putting out donation barrel. Other activities discussed including the Whirly Twirly Ride, Air Brush Tattoos, Face Painters, 802 Reptiles, Magic show, cooking contest (like a chili cook off but something different), etc.

Budget Update and Discussion: The draft budget for 24-25 is due next week, Oct. 25. Betsy is planning to keep the status quo and not looking to increase fees or pricing after last year's steep increase. Camps that were expensive this summer had a much lower turnout than average. Beach sales were down, but that was definitely driven more by bad weather and concerns over water quality. Betsy invited any suggestions or input for the budget to be submitted before Oct. 25.

Other Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Directors Report Oct. 16, 2023

Program Update: Adult Fall programs began in September including Men's Basketball, Coed Volleyball, Pickleball, Table Tennis, and Tai Chi. After School Cross Fit is full with 20 kids and begins this week. Unfortunately, we had to cancel after school Jui Jitsu and Adult Yoga due to low sign ups.

Parks Update:

The Beach House project is continuing to make progress. The foundation walls are in and plumbing and electrical conduit is in place. The slab will be poured the week of Oct. 16 and we expect support beams will start going up by the following week, which will be fun to see vertical progress begin!

Hullcrest Playground ARPA Project – Betsy and Matt had a meeting with a vendor from MRCREC that Matt had at a VLCT conference recently. The on site visit provided some good feedback to what can be done and different options for the playground area. Before proceeding with an RFP, we plan to get more resident feedback about the

playground, what ages use it, and what features are most important to users. Betsy prepared a draft survey and would like Committee input before distributing to the community. Any Committee Members who use the park or live in the neighborhood who are willing to help are invited to help distribute the survey and encourage feedback from neighbors.

Office Update:

Staff will be taking some vacation time in November. Sue will be out of the office from Nov. 6 – Nov. 10. Betsy will be out of the office from Nov. 14 – 17. The office will be closed Nov. 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.