

Shaftsbury Recreation Committee meeting of **May 24, 2024**

Present: Helen Olney, Sarah Costin, Barb Marino, Liz Duffy, Deena Ruege

AGENDA for Friday, May 24, 2024

1. 1. Call to Order (Review of April 26, 2024 minutes)
2. 2. Conflict of Interest Statement
3. 3. Announcements
4. 4. Public Comments
5. 5. Updates (park use, Green Up Day results, Story board, web updates, painting panel parallel to pavilion, bird art locations, update of ordering of park items, identifier sign on entrance to park,)
6. New Business:
 - Access to trash bags that fit the large trashcans at the pavilion and a procedure for storing/disposing of bags if Rec Committee members remove bags from the cans. Back-story: It is great to have the pavilion reserved during the weekend, but the DPW is not available to clean up between Saturday and Sunday. Cans were very full on Sunday morning and the Green Up trash bags were too small. Luckily, I had a couple of extra-large clear bags in my car that did fit. I removed the full bags and placed them near the gatepost, out of the way in case hornets were attracted to the party fare inside. I think it is important to have the pavilion as welcoming as possible to those who reserve it.
 - Ideas on how to encourage people to clean up after their dogs. I cleaned up dog poop right next to the pavilion early Saturday morning. I know this is a few bad actors who probably will not change, but it might be worth a short discussion.
7. Adjournment

1. Call to order 10:06 a.m.: Review minutes of April 26. Notations made on hard copy. Sarah accepted the minutes and Liz Duffy seconded.

2. Conflict of Interest: None

3. Announcements: None

4. Public Comments: None

5. Updates: Park Use: The **pavilion** is being reserved frequently, which increases park use.

Reservations are recorded on the park calendar. We brainstormed ways of increasing the Park's visibility. We want to make the process of reserving the pavilion easier for folks so we came up with a marketing post for our webpage: "**Blast for Summer.**" This was sent to Jen Holley, our webmaster to be posted.

Liz can post information about Howard Park and reserving the pavilion on the SES's PTO page. Great ideas that we implemented. The Bennington Blotter is also good to use for visibility.

Green Up Day: We are waiting for information from our Town Administrator.

Bird Art: **Emily Umphlett's 3rd grade class** created all the beautiful artwork.

Artwork will be **displayed** on the **climbing wall** near the pavilion. The wall is being **Painted** on Saturday, May 25 and the pictures displayed on Sunday, May 26.

Story Walk: Sarah is putting up the storyboards on Sunday, May 26.

Update on ordering park items: We are awaiting funding. Town administrator will address this.

Howard Park Sign: Call Mike Y. about painting and then lettering two boards with identification: **Howard Park...Recreation**. It was a very sad day when our beautiful park sign was stolen. If the DPW cannot do this then we will paint two boards, stencil the information on them and secure them to the vertical posts.

Playground: The playground needs some **fresh fill** for the season.

Trash on weekend events: Contact Mike Y. to get this resolved. When the pavilion is reserved on the weekend, the folks need empty garbage cans for their gathering.

6. New Business: We don't have a solution to the issue of irresponsible pet owners not cleaning up after their pets. Do we need more signage, more poop stations conveniently located? Put up a station near the Little League field?? Some Owners let their dogs run in the ball field and leave the mess for the kids to step in. This is so unacceptable and irresponsible!

If we could have Mike or the worker who does park maintenance stop in at one of our meetings, perhaps they have some ideas that they could share.

7. Adjournment: 11:24 a.m.

Next meeting: June 28, 2024

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Cole Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Deena Ruege (chairperson)