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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409  
61 Buck Hill Road  
Shaftsbury, VT  
05262-0409  
(802) 442-4038

### Recreation Committee

**Date of Meeting: July 26, 2024**

**Members Present:** Helen Olney, Sarah Costin, Liz Duffy, Deena Ruege  
non-committee members sitting in: Town Admin. Paula Iken, Community member Rick Bennett

#### AGENDA for Friday, July 26, 2024

1. Call to Order (Review of June 28,2024 minutes)
2. Conflict of Interest Statement
3. Announcements
4. Public Comments
5. Updates (park use, park items, signage for Howard Park)
6. New Business (new discussion items brought up )
7. Adjournment

**1. Call to order 10:04 a.m.:** Review minutes of June 28. Notations made on hard copy.  
Sarah

accepted the minutes and Liz seconded.

**2. Conflict of Interest:** None

**3. Announcements:** None

**4. Public Comments: Rick Bennett** from Economic Development: To attract more folks into

the park there is a **need** for tennis **courts** to be **resurfaced**, more **pickle ball courts** included (very popular outdoor activity). Playtown scheduler is resource to check out surrounding towns' games and times. **Sarah** commented that lots of people play tennis so we can't just replace them with pickleball courts. There is a need for **hybrid courts**. **Liz** suggested a lock box or some other accessible place to safely secure pickleball equipment. The new Community

Center is a possibility as a place to store pickleball equipment. Liz can also find out if SES uses the courts. We are a Title I school.

**Paula** suggested a configuration of two tennis courts and four pickleball courts. Question, would there be assigned times of use? The physical set up and logistics would have to be worked out. We need to research the best configuration for including both tennis and pickleball on one court. **Jerry Wall** heads the pickleball club. He could **run clinics** to spark interest in using the courts at Howard Park. **Funding** would include using the **reserve fund**. **Grants** are **competitive** in nature.

**Enlarging the courts** could prove advantageous for us. Something to think about.

**5. Updates: Park Use: Cub scouts** will be postponing their camping overnight and service

project until the Fall.

- **Signage: Paula** has been in contact with Tammy from Peckham. Paula will check on them providing a **free temporary sign** and also to **pay for a permanent replacement** sign from the sign maker in Manchester. **Another option** is to have a boulder with Howard Park information etched/chiseled into it. We can reuse the temporary sign in the Park if we all agree on the rock. But, we need to know what Peckham is capable of doing with concrete and stone.
- **Fire pit:** Fire pit was an item of consideration by the cub scouts to work on as a service project.
- **Contact the volunteer fire department** to get feedback on whether to leave the fire pit along Tilgner Trail or remove it. Is it considered a fire hazard in the wooded area?
- **Park items:** Paula will look up the previous information on **purchasing two bulletin Boards, cement planters, and benches for the park**. There should be **two to three** benches **along the trail** and three along the field. Benches made of sturdy trex was suggested. **Liz mentioned** a company that could convert plastic bags that we would collect, into benches. 1000 pounds of plastic would be needed to create one bench!  
The company's website is **Nextrex.com/recycling**.  
**Paula to alert Mike Y.** about new **fill needed** in playground area.

**6. New Business:** Our friend and committee member, Barb Marino, passed away a few days

ago after a valiant fight with cancer. Her dedicated presence in our community and to

this committee will be sorely missed. Barb's daughter Ali had contacted Deena regarding having a memorial service at the park to honor her mom. Deena will contact Ali to pass along information.

**7. Adjournment: 11:13 a.m.**

Next meeting: August 23, 2024

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Cole Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Deena Ruege (chairperson)