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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Recreation Committee

Date of Meeting: Friday, August 23, 2024 - 10:00AM at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Committee members Deena Ruege (chair), Tony D'Onofrio, and Sarah Costin were present. Town administrator Paula Iken was also present.

1. Call to Order (Review of July 26, 2024 minutes)

Ms. Costin moved to approve the July 26 minutes. Mr. D'Onofrio seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No one expressed a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Announcements

There were none.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Updates (park use, tennis courts, park items, Peckham signage, art gallery board)

- **Park Use:** Ms. Costin said that the **bathrooms are still filthy**. Ms. Iken said that they would be **hiring a new cleaning service** for Cole Hall and will consider asking the new contractor to clean the Howard Park bathrooms as well. The bathrooms are locked, so the service will need to be let in or provided with a key. The group discussed which months would need coverage, probably April-November.
- **Tennis Courts:** Everyone thanked **Ms. Costin and Ms. Ruege** for **measuring the tennis courts**. Ms. Iken said she is **applying** for a **state recreation grant**, which requires a 1:1 match. She asked for estimates and got one, from the firm that re-surfaced the courts the last time. One of their bids included a special material that would not crack as often. The **grant will provide** for **two tennis courts** and **four pickleball** courts as well as a **storage shed** and **equipment**. Mr. D'Onofrio asked for **benches**. Ms. Costin asked for a **backboard**. Ms. Iken asked for a letter of support for the grant from the recreation committee. The grant is due September 10. Ms. Costin volunteered to **write a letter of support**.
- **Park Items:** Ms. Ruege said they hadn't explored what kind of bulletin board is needed. Ms. Iken will send out some ideas. It was agreed that **two bulletin boards are needed, at the trail** and in another location **near the pavilion**.

- **Peckham Signage:** Re the signage from Peckham, Ms. Costin visited with them and found them **very cooperative and creative. They will provide a 3' x 6' concrete sign with wood letters, on steel posts implanted in the ground.** Our DPW needs to **level the ground.** Peckham will install the posts and the signs. The committee discussed what colors to use. The **concrete could be gray or buff-ish, maybe lightened with a little white. They chose Sherwin Williams 748 green and plain concrete/medium gray cement.** Peckham said it would take a few weeks to create the sign. The **font should be thick and blocky.** Which **ridgeline** should be **in the background,** West Mountain or Glastenbury? **They went with Glastenbury.**
- **Art Gallery:** Ms. Ruege said she has been in touch with Emily Umphlett about the school-based Art Gallery project. She said she hopes to have something by the spring if not for the fall. **Mr. D'Onofrio volunteered to mount the pictures.**
- **Scout Involvement:** Ms. Ruege said the Cub Scouts have offered to re-do the fire pit on the Tilgner Trail. Mr. D'Onofrio said he's on the fire department, and is willing to talk with the fire marshal. He said he didn't think it would be an issue, but some years the weather is just too dry to be safe. Mr. D'Onofrio will look into whether some kind of extinguisher is needed. He texted the fire marshals. Ms. Ruege contacted Tammy Endres re a Cub Scout sleep over. She hasn't heard back. Ms. Iken has been trying to find a general Boy Scout contact. Ms. Ruege shared some contact information from Arlington, and Bennington. Ms. Endres is the Committee Chair.

Ms. Ruege said she looked into the Trex Challenge. She worries about undercutting the school's effort. It was agreed to table the Trex possibility for the time being.

6. New Business

Ms. Costin said she and Naomi Miller would be willing to consider putting on a fundraiser for a dog park. She thinks they need at least \$2500. Joyce Cowper, now deceased, left \$5000 for a dog park. It is sitting in a bank account. The group discussed laying out the park and coming up with a design and cost estimate. It should contain two benches, a dog waste container, and a memorial sign for Ms. Cowper's dog. Ms. Costin will look into it.

The fire marshals responded to Mr. D'Onofrio's text re the fire pit. They said no extinguisher is needed, but must the pit be kept clean. They gave it their blessing to the idea.

Mr. D'Onofrio asked whether it was the right time to invite the teams back to play on the soccer fields. Mr. D'Onofrio said he has an app on his phone that will help him stripe them. He will begin to get the word out to the schools. Ms. Ruege will ask our webmaster to put out the news on the website that the fields are available again. Ms. Costin will draft a script and share it.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:08.