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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

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## Recreation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Friday, September 27, 2024 - 10:00AM at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

**Members Present:** Deena Ruege (chair), Sarah Costin, Liz Duffee, Helen Olney, Tony D'Onofrio. Also present was Operations Coordinator, Jen Holley.

1. Call to Order and review of August 23, 2024 minutes

The meeting came to order at 10 a.m. The committee reviewed the minutes. Ms. Olney moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Costin seconded the motion, which passed.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

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

3. Announcements

They were tabled to "updates."

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Updates

- Bathroom issues: no update
- Courts: Ms. Costin said the courts were included in the Recreation Grant request (which was submitted in a timely fashion). Cracks in the court are to be addressed before word on the grant is received, but the scheduling of the repair is unknown.
- Storage shed: the Recreation Grant request included the shed and benches.
- Bulletin boards: tabled
- Safety material for play area: has not been laid down.
- Peckham signage: Ms. Costin reported on her meeting with Peckham. The sign structure and the signage itself have been designed. It will be a concrete slab with green plywood letters infused with concrete. It will read "Howard Park, Shaftsbury Recreation." It will be a big, immovable, easily visible object.
- Art in the Park: Teacher Emily Umphlett reports that the school children are excited to participate again. The Town will laminate the art works at the Town's expense (about \$130).
- The Cub Scout overnight has been postponed because all the Scouts but one are sick. The leaders will, however, work on the service project (horseshoe pit renovation) this Saturday. A Mr. Green originally set

up the pits, which are of tournament quality. Ms. Holley suggested cornhole pits for those for whom horseshoes are too heavy.

## 6. New Business

Ms. Costin said she'd done some **research on dog parks**. She found that the recommended minimum size is one acre (to avoid fights between dogs), but that a half-acre will suffice if more is unavailable. The committee decided to post signs warning owners that dogs must be vaccinated, and that owners use the park at their own risk. There was some disagreement about what kind of fence should be installed and how high it should be. Mr. D'Onofrio said Aiden Santanarchangelo does fencing for the Town of Bennington and could be very helpful. Ms. Ruege said she thought it unlikely that the dog park would be crowded.

Ms. Olney asked about dates for **closing the Park for the winter**. Ms. Ruege said the bathrooms are closed in October or November. The port-a-potty is removed at the same time. The committee will confer with the DPW foreman about the crew's plowing plans for the parking lot.

Ms. Costin mentioned that people are still **abusing the parking area**, doing donuts in the lot and throwing gravel up on the tennis courts. In the past the committee discussed installing boulders in the lot to address that sort of vandalism, or installing concrete planters there. Ms. Costin has been holding a few plants bought just for this purpose some time ago. Ms. Holley suggested a volunteer work party to build the concrete planters locally. Ms. Olney suggested a grassy strip in front of the tennis courts at a level above the parking lot that such that donut-makers couldn't cast stones on the courts. Should it be hard to find volunteers to make the planters, Mr. D'Onofrio suggested the committee could reach out the technical center at the high school. It could buy also a concrete stamp kit to enliven the planters.

Ms. Ruege will ask the DPW foreman if they can keep the parking lot open during the winter.

Mr. D'Onofrio said he'd like to order nets for the soccer fields. The soccer club is defunct. He will measure the fields and figure out what the nets might cost. He noted a lot of kids in the area play soccer, but there is no lead any longer. Ms. Ruege said the former club used to keep all their supplies in the shed near the field. We should check to see what was left there.

Ms. Costin said she and Naomi Miller hadn't begun fundraising for the dog park. She asked Mr. D'Onofrio to get more information on fencing and dog-safe gates. Ms. Costin said she thought the committee might have to raise about \$2500 for the park. There is \$5000 in escrow for the dog park already.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m. The next meeting will be held October 25.