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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Recreation Committee

Date of Meeting: Friday, June 27, 2025 at 10:00AM at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Deena Ruege (chair), Sarah Costin, and Marie Watson.

1. The meeting came to order at 10:02 a.m. The committee reviewed the minutes from **May 23: accepted** by Sarah and seconded by Marie.
2. Conflict of Interest Statement
None
3. Announcements
None
4. Public Comments
None
5. Updates
 - **Memorial bench:** A good spot for **bench placement** is located about halfway up the Trail. At this **point the trail splits** and would be a convenient spot to rest before continuing along one of two paths.
 - **Security cameras:** Paula is on this! It is an active work in progress. Paula will get the cameras ordered once the new **fiscal year begins on July 1, 2025**. Placement of these units will be determined to obtain maximum coverage of targeted areas of the park: e.g., driveway leading into the park, message board, bathrooms. **Signs regarding cameras** in use will need to be **posted... "smile, you're on camera."** If Mike Yannotti does not have signage, then we will have to order them.
 - **Message board: cameras must be up and running** before we install the Howard Park message board.
 - **Bathroom roof: Mike Becker** has not replaced the section of roof facing the ballfield yet.
 - **Playground mulch: New mulch has not been applied** to the playground area yet. **Mike Y. needs to be contacted.**
 - **Memorial plaque:** We are going to install a **memorial plaque** on the **Art in the Park gallery** in **memory of Barb Marino**, a dedicated member of the Recreation Committee and the town of Shaftsbury. A link to look at outdoor plaques was sent out to Recreation members during the month of June to get a jump-start to see what was available. **I will resend this link.** Barb was a light to our committee meetings. Those of us present thought that a **shiny plaque** would perfectly represent her personality and dedication. We hope to get the plaque and wording picked out by emailing each other. Paula will then place the order.

- **Peckham sign:** We need to check if the Howard Park **sign** has been **clear coated** yet. Check with Mike Y. The **garden club** will be contacted about **plantings** around the sign. We need **concrete planters** for the park. Sarah already has spikey plants that Poulin Grain had donated awhile back. Deena will send a **note of appreciation to Jonathan at Peckham** to thank him and his men for our new Howard Park sign, marking the entrance into the park. We would like to show our appreciation to him and his crew by providing lunch for them.
Sarah will then approach Jonathan to get ideas about **cement planters**.
- **Girls travel softball team:** Discussion of the “Bennington Bandits” is tabled until next meeting.

6. New Business

- **Dog Park:** Mike Y. had moved boulders into the area we were considering for the dog park. He said that he could move them back, no problem. However, increased park activity requires expanded parking. We seem to have created a happy problem now! We need to reach out to our community and especially dog folks...Marlene has the list of all folks with licensed dogs. Sarah looked at the free polls that Marcus had offered to us for use as posts in fencing. They are too large in diameter and are unusable. We are back to square one! Community involvement is needed. **Calling all dog owners!** We are requesting your help in making this a reality! Can you offer materials, time, funds, fundraising ideas and involvement? “Bark in the Park” event at the park: costume party and parade around Halloween, Frisbee, and talent contest. Sarah to develop a Dog Park survey to be posted on our website. Jen can put the survey in a QR code and post it for the tech savvy; otherwise the survey can be taken on the website.
Mike Y. of the DPW had asked Deena how we were planning to maintain the dog park? We were anticipating that folks using the park would clean up after their own dogs and just notice if any other “deposits” needed to be removed.
- **Story Board** is up along Tilgner Trail. Sarah Case chose **Maisy Goes on a Nature Walk** by Lucy_Cousins for the summer read. It looks great!
- **Kayla Becker requested use of the ballfield during the summer/fall on Sundays.** I need more complete information from her such as **times of use**, need for **facilities, and open to community**, organized through **BFYMCA?** Ball folks using their fields during this time? I’m waiting for a response from Kayla.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 10:40 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: July 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted: Deena Ruege