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Town of Shaftsbury

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Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Friday, July 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Deena Ruege (chair), Sarah Costin, Tony D'Onofrio, Liz Duffy and Marie Watson. Jen Holley was sitting in for Paula Iken.

1. The meeting came to order at 9:58 a.m. The committee reviewed the minutes from June 27, 2025: accepted as is by Marie and seconded by Sarah.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

None

3. Announcements

None

4. Public Comments: **Rick Bennett** representing the **Garden Club** and **Pickle Ball** concerns.

- **Garden Club:** We spoke of **appropriate plantings** in front of our new Howard Park sign. **Rick will get together with Sarah** to discuss this; low maintenance requirement a must. The soil around the sign is quite poor. Topsoil or some other soil remediation would be needed. Use of cement planters was considered but they could be vandalized, and watering and other maintenance would be problematic. More information should be forthcoming at our August meeting.

- **Pickle Ball:** The contract to resurface the tennis courts was just signed and we are waiting for a start date. We need information on what lines are being drawn on the courts. We thought it was to be for two tennis courts and four pickle ball courts.

Rick Bennett brought in data indicating that pickle ball was increasing in popularity, stating that It's a great sport for all ages and keeps folks active and engaged with others. He suggested we dedicate one of our tennis courts to four pickle ball courts. This would leave only one tennis court. The committee did not agree with this. Tennis courts are used regularly, including by the elementary school. After further discussion, the committee decided it should meet with Paula to clarify if we are locked in to the actual number of tennis and pickleball courts and find out if it is possible to change the configuration of the courts. **We need an emergency meeting before our regular scheduled meeting on August 22.**

5. Updates

- **Memorial bench:** Sarah Beebe has not contacted us yet. She has the bench.

- **Security cameras:** Vosker cameras LTE and solar are recommended: \$349 each + \$20/month for the livestream plan, best plan. We would start with three cameras for a total output of \$1047. Each month for the service plan would = \$60. One person has to be the contact for notifications. This cannot rotate between people. The dilemma is who would get the notifications when motion is activated at the park? It was suggested that our Town Constable might take on this assignment. Paula could ask him. We looked into what Arlington, Bennington and Manchester do for security. Bennington and Manchester have their own police departments to rely on. Shaftsbury does not. Arlington has no security but they are also more visible. If we cannot get someone to commit to livestream notifications, the committee will look at other options. The reality is that no one will arrive at the park in time to stop vandalism in action. Vosker also offers a security camera for \$249 that is not livestream. Something to think about, quickly. Vandalism is a problem. We cannot proceed with improvements at the park until security cameras are installed. The committee agreed to an **emergency meeting before our regular scheduled meeting on August 22 to finalize a security camera purchase.**
- **Message board: Security cameras must be up and running before installation.**
- **Bathroom roof: Deena will contact Mike Becker** to find out if he still intends to reshingle the bathroom roof.
- **Memorial plaque:** Deena will contact Ali Marino to include her and her dad in the wording of the memorial plaque for her mom, Barb Marino.
- **Cleveland Ave Park:** The DPW needs to mulch the playground.
- **Girls travel softball team:** This is in the works for Howard Park. During the off-season Tony will speak with some of the team's generous donors about getting the upper ball field softball ready.

6. New Business

- **Dog Park Survey:** Sarah went over the dog park survey results. Most folks wanted the dog park near the parking lot, a small dog area, shade and benches, bags and bins for clean-up. Donation results: 39% of respondents could donate construction time, 22% could donate funds, 13% would donate maintenance time. 0% could donate materials. We appreciate Jen Holley for making the survey easy for folks to access by using our town website and Marlene Clark for sending postcards to licensed dog owners.
- Whose budget do the dog supplies, doggie bags, come from: DPW, Rec .Committee, Town?
- **DPW will not clean up the doggie do bags from small containers as they present a health issue.** It was suggested that a large refuse can could be placed between the gates to the dog park so owners can deposit their small bags into one large container for collection.
- **Liability at site #5 along Tilgner Trail:** The wooden platform is deteriorating and falling apart. Mold and moss make it extremely slick. It must be removed or at the very least caution tape put up. Deena will speak to Mike Y. about removing it.
- **CCDC** and information on the town green will be moved forward to our August 22 meeting.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:15 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: August 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted: Deena Ruege