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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Town of Shaftsbury Recreation Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, January 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom.

1. Call to Order/Review of Minutes

The meeting came to order at 10:00 AM. Present were Deena Ruege, Chair; Sarah Costin; Liz Duffy (via Zoom); Marie Watson. Also present were Town Operations Coordinator Jen Holley and member of the public Kate O Klein.

The minutes from the November 21, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Ms. Ruege called for a motion to approve. Ms. Costin moved; Ms. Watson seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0-0. (Ms. Duffy had not yet joined the meeting.)

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

There were no conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Public Comments

Ms. O Klein commented that she was attending because she was interested in being part of the Recreation Committee. She is a "snowbird" but would like to be involved when she is in town. She knew former member Barb Marino well.

5. Updates

Dog Park: Ms. Costin said that because the DPW has been so busy she will wait until at least February before contacting Mike Yannotti about time the DPW can commit to the dog park in the Spring, for drainage etc. She also said that people on the Dog Park signup list will be contacted, and a meeting time set to start organizing people to be ready for construction.

Resurfacing tennis/pickleball courts: Town Administrator Paula Iken told Ms. Holley that she has contacted the tennis court company and will have a date soon for the project.

Plaque for Barb Marino: Ms. Ruege asked where the plaque was. Ms. Holley said that Mike Yannotti had picked up the plaque. It has not been installed it yet.

Memorial for Helen Olney: The committee members discussed the possibility of a tree or bench as a memorial for Helen. A tree with a plaque underneath it was agreed on. The type of tree was not determined except that it should be native and possibly a source of food for wildlife.

Cameras at Howard Park: Ms. Holley said the cameras were working well but that there is still a lot of activity during the night that the cameras can't record.

Purchase of motion-activated solar lights for night surveillance: Ms. Holley went on to say that she and her husband Doug had donated 2 motion-activated, 9,000 lumen solar lights for Howard Park. These will light up the entire parking area and allow the cameras to get clear recordings of activity after dark. The committee thanked the Holleys.

Miscellaneous updates: Ms. Costin noted that some of the playground equipment in Cleveland Park was looking rusty and old. She suggested a safety check and possible replacement of unsafe equipment.

Ms. Watson noted that the Holiday Lights Parade was a big success with great attendance. It took place on November 29, 2025. The committee discussed starting to plan the 2026 parade in Late August-September, working with Art Whitman and Charlie Jenks, who did a great job organizing last year's parade. A sub-committee was suggested to help organize lighted vehicle participants, pre-parade vendors, hot chocolate, etc.

Community involvement in promoting Howard Park: Ms. Watson said that the park seems well promoted. The committee agreed that the park is being used by a lot of sports teams and that the pavilion is well utilized, and that it would be nice to have soccer teams back. Additional parking is needed. The area next to the current parking lot was discussed.

6. New Business

Ms. Duffy suggested another Moonlight Walk at Howard Park. Dates were discussed and Tuesday, March 3, 2026, was agreed on. There will be a full moon rising at around 6:40 PM. The walk will be from 6:00 – 7:30 PM on the Tilgner Trail at Howard Park. Hot chocolate and light snacks will be provided. Ms. Duffy suggested putting (battery operated) tea lights in white paper bags at the base of trees and placing fairy doors on some trees. This could also promote a Spring event making fairy houses.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Ruege called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Costin moved; Ms. Watson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.