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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

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### Recreation Committee Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom.

**In attendance:** Deena Ruege, Sarah Costin, and Marie Watson in person; Liz Duffy and Kate Oklein via Zoom, and Operations Coordinator, Jen Holley

#### 1. Call to Order/Review of Minutes

The minutes from the February 27, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ms. Ruege called for a motion to approve. Ms. Watson moved; Ms. Costin seconded. Minutes were approved.

#### 2. Conflict of Interest Statement: None

**3. Announcements:** Ms. Costin announced that she was leaving the Recreation Committee due in part to an injury that limited her ability to walk, in part because she wanted to make space for a more able bodied person, and for time constraints- she serves on several other boards/committees. She asked Ms. Duffy if she knew anyone who might want to get involved. Ms. Duffy said she would ask, but the time of the meeting made it difficult for many people. She suggested changing the meeting time. Ms. Costin also brought up her position as the Recreation Committee representative on the CCDC. Ms. Watson is also on that committee a representative of the public. Ms. Costin suggested that they switch representations if that was allowable.

#### 4. Public Comments: None

#### 5. Updates:

- **Dog Park:** DPW Foreman Mike Yannotti discussed work needed at the proposed dog park location: removal of shrubs- probably by bulldozing and then seeding grass, drainage, an expanded parking area about halfway down the park drive where there are currently boulders, a walkway from the parking area to the dog park similar to the Tilgner Trail, and gravel walkways around the park. Ms. Costin asked that several trees be saved to provide some shade. Mr. Yannotti will arrange for the area to be mowed. Ms. Costin offered to continue as a volunteer to organize the dog park project, and gave the dog park contact sheet to Ms. Ruege.
- **Memorial plaque for Barb Marino:** There was some discussion on the location of the plaque. Mr. Yannotti will locate the plaque and install it on the Art Gallery at Howard Park.
- **Solar Lights:** Mr. Yannotti has the solar lights and will install them above the cameras as soon as the lift truck is available. The lights will be motion activated. Ms. Holley, who with her husband donated the solar lights, said that lights may be purchased for the dog park when it is completed.
- **Pickleball/Tennis Courts:** Tennis court and pickleball courts are scheduled to be resurfaced and relined in July. Mr. Yannotti said that one of tennis nets needed to be replaced.

- **Tree, bench and memorial plaque for Helen Olney:** The tree was discussed. Mr. Yannotti suggested contacting Jim Henderson of BCRC and gave the committee his phone number. Ms. Ruege noted that the tree will be in full sun. Ms. Ruege will call Mr. Henderson.

## 6. New Business:

- The water will be turned on in the Howard Park bathrooms in mid-April. A Porta Potty will be placed in early April. Mr. Yannotti said that the toilets were worked on last Fall but needed to be replaced. The septic system was pumped and cleaned last Fall.
- Mr. Yannotti said that the DPW will remove old soccer nets grown into the hedgerow. He also said that this year all the buildings at Howard Park will be painted, roof repairs will be done, and the yellow bumper on the baseball field will be replaced.
- Electricity on the Town Green was discussed with Mr. Yannotti. Ms. Watson described where she thought the power outlet should be, on or near the power pole. Mr. Yannotti was unsure if an outlet would be allowed on the pole, but he will find out. There is currently power to the trailer used as a Town office. This will be freed up by May after the move to the new offices and could possibly be used for the green. It is metered separately. Mr. Yannotti will investigate options.
- **Town Green questionnaire:** Ms. Watson said that she collected around 80 questionnaires at the Town Meeting and on voting day, but they were not accessible as they were locked in the Town Administrator's office. Many more were received online. Some suggestions were movies, music, a pavilion, and gardens. Ms. Watson thought that gardens wouldn't work because a salt pile was previously stored on the land, but possibly raised beds would work. Ms. Ruege suggested that questionnaires be reviewed outside of committee time. Ms. Duffy noted that Big Truck night will be on the night of Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and it might be a good time to set up a table for Town Green and Howard Park information. Ms. Watson suggested a Town tag sale on the Green as a fundraiser. Since Ms. Watson knows how/where people park near the Green, she will determine the location of the Porta Potty.

There was a long discussion of fees. Ms. Costin suggested that there be a deposit that would be refunded if the renter cleaned up. Ms. Watson asked about how high the fees should go for non-residents. Ms. Duffy did some research on other similar situations, and it was decided to base a fee on numbers of people, not residency.

Updated Howard Park Pavilion and Town Green Fees:

- For groups under 25 people: \$20 refundable security deposit and \$25 fee
- For groups over 25 people, a \$30 refundable security deposit and \$50 fee.
- If a group books a date and a rain date, they pay 1 security deposit and 2 fees. The second fee would be refunded if the rain date isn't used.

Ms. Holley will create a consistent form where the renter chooses the location- Howard Park Pavilion or Town Green.

Green up Day is Saturday, May 2, 2026, starting at 9:00 AM in the Cole Hall parking lot.

## 7. Adjournment:

Ms. Ruege asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Watson moved; Ms. Costin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.

Next scheduled meeting: April 24, 2026, possibly in the new office building at 677 Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury, or at Cole Hall.