

Minutes of the Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting
January 22, 2020
10:15 am

Present: Rita Farrell, Christine Robinson, BZ Reilly, Christine Marglin

January agenda:

Community Garden, Greenhouse
Trails

Approval of last meeting's minutes.

Rita: sent an email to Melissa Warwick and spoke with her about funding a greenhouse. CPA funds not available for this purpose, but could be used for a community garden. It would qualify as passive recreation, which building would not. Could we get the hoops style greenhouse parts? Build raised beds. A site is needed where this garden could be created. Applications are due at the end of the month. There is only one CPA application so far. The committee would have to make an exception to the deadline to complete this application. It could also be raised at a special town meeting. Doing it at the school is a possibility. That would require contacting them, and BZ is willing to talk with Matt, the custodian. Rita could research what CPA money can be spent on for the garden and find out if the deadline could be extended. BZ will ask Melissa to come with her to speak with Matt. Since an outdoor water source is needed and we want to involve children, the school would be an ideal location. Feb 20 at 7 pm is the next CPA meeting.

Christine R talked with Jen about being on the committee, she seems to be interested.

BZ met with Mary Anne about tensions at her attendance at our meetings, and explained that we don't want to be involved with organizing exercise classes any longer as it seems to be stepping on her toes. MA agreed, explaining that she wants the library to get the credit for these classes. BZ told her that we are now getting out of the class business. MA will start being responsible for all classes as of March, and has the funding for this. BZ also explained that we are trying to expand recreation activities in town.

Rita reports about our budget: we have enough money to cover the 1320 dollars owed to Kathy and Jeanette as of February 15. We had 1,815 in our accounts, (budget and revolving). COA funds: \$260 balance that we can access.

Total: 2075

Through end of February another 380 is needed. Total is 1700.

\$375 remains

Christine M spoke with Elizabeth about trails, which she is not interested in working on, and making a community garden, which she is very interested in working on. She likes the idea of the garden being up near the lake because it could be accessed by people who live in food deserts who come up to visit the lake.

Pelham has a community garden and could be contacted about how they've organized theirs.

The garden we make would be for Shutesbury residents, with a focus on children interacting with older residents in working together there. There could be plots for individuals.

We need to be sure there are no soil contaminants, which could be avoided if raised beds were used. We also need to work out how much land could be accessed. Maybe we can do a basic CPA application, working out some of these logistics. New Salem Academy funds are available for permanent structures on public land. BZ can look into those funds. Select Board also had funds available for good ideas, was it ever given out?

Trails need to be out on hold unless we can get other people involved in pursuing the mapping trails, such as Gary or Huckle.

Lecture series could be something we try to work with the library on in the future.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 26 at 1:30.