

Shutesbury Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

4:00, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow and Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Ann Brigham, Christine Marglin (taking minutes), Elaine Puleo, BZ Reily, Christine Robinson

Absent: Darwin Michener-Rutledge

Guests: Chief Kristin Burgess, Michael Hootstein

Agenda

1. Kristin Burgess, Police Chief, to share ideas for a softball field
2. DCR Proposal to log lot NS-25-02 (BZ Reily)
3. Bike Repair this spring (Sam Spisiak & Barbara Bigelow)
4. Budget for remainder of FY 25 (Barbara Bigelow)
5. Draft calendar for remainder of FY 25 (All)
6. Other business

Minutes from January meeting approved.

Kristin heard about the athletic/soft ball field behind the firehouse from a longtime resident that used to exist and be used in town that has given her an idea to get this going again as a community gathering place. It would be a cooperative endeavor between the police and town residents. Her idea is to have a multi use field, bleachers, a dirt track, where coed softball and other things such as live music events with food trucks could happen. A working group would be needed.

BZ recalls people riding there, playing soccer, and holding a softball game there to celebrate her own wedding.

Elaine thinks it should be worked on to make it a reality for the first year, followed by applying for CPA funding. The town DPW could be asked to begin mowing it. Parking may be an issue. There will have to be bathroom facilities. Fire trucks must not be impeded.

Kristin would like to ask the select board next to create a working group.

Sam is aware of other possible grant money that may be available for small town projects.

Kristin's long term fantasy includes a rubberized track, a gazebo, lights, well maintained bleachers.

BZ suggests the possibility of grant funding from the defunct New Salem Academy which she got in the past for SES projects.

A safe place for people to walk is needed.

Edits to letter drafted by BZ from the rec committee, omit biking; specify some of Quabbin made unusable and inaccessible from logging. There are plans to build a road to enable logging and then will have access to logging all over town. The claim is that this is to enhance the forests, and not to make money from logging. There is a strong potential for negative impact on the town.

Unanimous agreement to send the letter and to include the signatures of committee members.

Budget: we don't have enough left in our budget to cover all the events we have discussed.

Bike repair event: Sam has investigated. A bike tuning clinic could be run by someone from Laughing Dog Bicycle in Amherst. Everyone is in favor of doing new things, such as the bike event. May 17 is a possible date, in the morning. Maybe town people who are good with bike repairs could volunteer as well. We will start with town residents before approaching someone we would bring in and pay.

Fruit trees: pruning, maintenance, fertilizing, and so on to keep fruit trees healthy.
Pick an April weekend day.

Meeting adjourned: 5:00

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4pm

Budget & Programming As of 2-25-25 FY 2025

Budget Update 2/25/2025

Night Sky	8-10-24	\$250.00
Town wide birthday party	9-11-24	\$100.00
Co-Sponsorship Fitness classes	10-4-24	1000.00
Co-sponsorship Good Neighbor Day	10-4-24	100.00
Soccer balls for Shootsbury youth soccer	10-10-24	69.05
Bright Water Bog Walk	10-19-24	250.00
Improv Workshop	2-23-25	250.00
Amount spent to date		2019.05
Balance remaining FY 2025		980.95

Proposed Programming:

- Sponsor Open Studios \$100
- Bike repair event
- Early morning bird walk during migration (Clif)
- Rocks of the area
- How to start an orchard
- Farm Visit
- Spring Bright Water Bog
- Night Sky

Options:

We do not have enough money to offer each group/individual \$250. Some ideas:

The first criterion is whether someone is willing to organize the event. If not, then let's remove it from the list.

For the remaining events here are some options.

- Offer all remaining events and pay each the same amount (\$880.95 divided by number of events)
- Offer 3 of the events and pay each \$250. That leaves us with a reminder of \$130.95 for a third event or something else.
- Clif and Graham & Helen have all refused the \$250 and asked that the money go to the library. Could we explain the budget constraint and ask if they're willing to lead the events without compensation?
- Could we push some of these events into the next fiscal year ... for example the rocks, how to start an orchard, and night sky?

February 25, 2025

Commissioner Brian Arrigo

Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Commissioner Arrigo:

As members of the Shutesbury Recreation Committee, it has come to our attention that the DCR is proposing to log lot NS-25-02 in the Quabbin Reservoir. Our committee is dedicated to encouraging people's outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and hunting all of which will be adversely impacted by this project. **Query: how is biking affected?**

The mission state of DCR as found on your website states:

The health and happiness of people across Massachusetts depends on the accessibility and quality of our natural resources, recreational facilities, and great historic landscapes. DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment.

This logging project violates this mission by making the Quabbin Reservoir unusable and inaccessible. **Query: Is all of the Quabbin Reservoir made unusable and inaccessible or a significant portion of it?**

Please consider the impact on the people of the state that you are serving.

Sincerely,

The Shutesbury Recreation Committee

CC: State Senator Jo Commerford
State Representative Aaron Saunders
Governor Maura Healy