

Meeting of Shutesbury, MA Recreation Committee
Tuesday September 23, 2025
4:00 PM EDT, Zoom

Meeting begun: 4:00

Present: Barbara Bigelow, Sam Spisiak, cochairs, Ann Brigham (taking minutes), Christine Robinson, Jessica Carlson-Belanger (guest)

Absent: Christine Marglin, Elaine Puleo

Agenda

Vote to approve minutes

1. New members
2. Soccer update
3. Town Wide Birthday sponsor: October 5th.
4. Announcements about Shutesbury Geology and Night Sky and Birding
5. Discussion - Town Meeting Bylaw
6. New business

Jessica Carlson-Belanger: Interested in joining the committee. Loves some of the things Recreation Committee has been doing. Interested in collaboration, bringing community together, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Wants to learn about the committee and share ideas about serving different populations. Ideas include pick-up basketball, hike meet-ups, historical hikes. The committee voted unanimously to have Jessica join the committee.

Sam: Soccer is going well. Last outing had about 20 kids. Amherst high school women's soccer team players will coach the kids on Sunday, September 28. Sam will send out a town announcement.

Barbara: Town Wide Birthday sponsor: October 5th. Group is requesting \$100 for their expenses. Committee unanimously approved sponsoring the event with \$100.

Barbara: Tom Schieding offered to host another Night Sky event for free. Barbara will confirm date with Tom and then email everyone who rsvp'd for last event and let them know the event details. If people want to go, they can just show up. Recreation Committee will not host or organize.

Barbara: Al Warner geology walk. Al is out of town and will contact Barbara when he returns. May want to schedule in spring 2026.

Barbara and Sam: Library received a grant to host events around birding in spring 2026. They asked us to co-sponsor. Will coordinate with Mary Anne about timing.

Town Meeting Bylaw: Barbara received email from Nettie Harrington Pangallo, town manager, asking for input on two questions:

- Question 1: If the Town were to hold Annual Town Meeting on the first or second Saturday in May rather than in April, would this work better for the board or committee that you represent?
- Question 2: If the Town were to amend the Town Meeting Date Bylaw so that we held a Fall Town Meeting on the first or second Saturday in November to focus on zoning, planning, and by-laws, would this adjustment work for the committee or board you represent?

Barbara will email Nettie to say both changes are fine with the Recreation Committee. Jessica wondered if the town meeting isn't held in May due to possible conflict with the Northampton Pride Parade.

New business

Barbara: Stitching group: Sam will get calendar of library events; Barbara will then create a calendar for stitching group with no overlap of events. Stitching group will restart on October 12th, 9-11am in the town hall. Will meet every other week after that.

Jessica: Idea for no-host hike meet-ups at different Shutesbury trails on staggered days and times. Perhaps offer monthly. Jessica will draft a tentative schedule.

Next meeting agenda items: snowshoes, basketball, hike meet ups

Meeting adjourned: 4.42pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4pm