

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The mission of The Shaftsbury Recreation Committee is to revitalize Howard Park. We are dedicated to developing it into a true community park which can be enjoyed by all ages. Our goal is to make Howard Park self sufficient. Though progress at times can be slow, we are definitely moving forward in our vision.

We began by mailing out a town survey to get feedback on the direction the community wanted us to take. This gave us a starting point from which to proceed with our plan. We also went on fact finding outings to surrounding parks to study their operations and rules and regulations for use. Though major activities had been planned to occur at Howard Park, weather conditions necessitated their cancellation.

We recently took a Howard Park Winter Survey to get feedback on self-directed activities that would be allowed during the winter months. Most folks would like the park gates open on the weekends in addition to winter recess. The most popular activities are ice skating and sledding, with snow shoeing coming in third.

The Vermont Forest and Parks grant and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps grant allowed us to proceed with the *Tilgner Trail Improvement Project*. The VT Youth Conservation Corps worked on the trail for two weeks in July. During that time they built a kiosk at the head of the trail, a bridge over the culvert into the trail, a turnpike on an extremely wet area of the trail and did general restoration. An Eagle Scout project has continued to improve the trail.

Other improvements at Howard Park have come about due to concerned community members donating their time, labor and materials. These improvements include: new telescoping flagpole (The Veterans of Foreign War), new shed (financed by Monument Soccer and Norshaft Soccer, built by Brent Peacock and son), clearing of the upper field (Owen Beauchesne), and constructing two horseshoe pits (Gale Greene and Arthur Carlucci).

The Recreation Committee has developed a Howard Park Use of Facilities Form, User Agreement Form and a Fee Schedule. Organizations that will be using Howard Park will need to pick up these forms from the Town Office and return the filled out forms with any accompanying paperwork to the Shaftsbury Town Treasurer or the Town Office. Forms must be returned before the fields are needed for your activity.

We are in the process of developing rules and regulations for park use. This will be included in a Facilities Use pamphlet for Howard Park which will be available in the Town Office.

The Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. If you have questions or concerns, contact me at 447-4741 or gruege03@aol.com. Come join us and share your ideas. New members are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted

Deena Ruege, Acting Chairperson/Recording Secretary