Town of SHELBURNE

Conservation Commission

MINUTES

Regular Meeting ~ January 14, 2020

Present: Norman Davenport, Ellen Jenkins, John Richardson, Steve McCormick

Absent: Allan Smith

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Garth Laporte. Anne Larson, Tim Smith, Jim Perry, David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Tom Johnson, Keith Nelson

Chair Norm Davenport opened the meeting at 7 p.m. A quorum was present.

It was noted that there had been no meeting in December.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of November 26, 2019.

Voting in favor: Norm, Ellen, John, Steve

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

**Highway Department NOI Brook Road**

Norm opened the hearing at 7:15 p.m. Brook Road has been closed for well over a year due to bridge conditions deemed to be unsafe by Mass DOT. Gill Engineering, represented by Keith Nelson, had been hired by the town to rehabilitate the bridge and hopefully get the road opened by the end of the year. The arch of the bridge has a longitudinal crack and part of the west wall has been scoured out leaving a void in the abutment. The plan to repair the abutment involves closing a portion of the area with sandbags, pumping the water into a settlement basin, and using filter paper to filter out stones, etc. That part of the repair is expected to take three or four days. The contractor for the job will decide the location of the settlement basin. The contractor will send the plans for the settlement basin to Gill Engineering and to the Commission about a month before work begins. The work is expected to start in August or September. As for the crack, one side of the bridge is laid stone and the other has concrete. Shielding will be in place to ensure that nothing falls into the stream. The repair will be same sort as has recently been done on the Bassett Road bridge. Part of the headwall will be removed and there will be about a three-foot excavation down to the crack. The crack will be filled. A reinforced concrete slab will be installed. Then the headwall will be built back up. In the future, if the arch fails, the concrete slab will provide a secondary means of support. The only equipment in the stream will be a pump and forms. There will be no mechanized equipment in the stream.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the plan for the rehabilitation of the bridge known as the Brook Road Bridge subject to the following conditions: 1) the contractor’s plans, including the size of the pump, location, design, and capacity of the settlement basin, will be received by the Commission at least one month prior to the start of work; 2) there will be no mechanized equipment in the stream; and 3) the work will be done during low water flow periods.

Voting to approve: Norm, John, Ellen, Steve

Opposed: None

Abstaining: None

A motion was made by Steve to close the hearing at 7:44 p.m. This was seconded by John and unanimously approved.

**Open Space Committee RDA Mohawk Mahican Trail Extension**

Members of the Open Space Committee said they had the endorsement of the Selectboard to extend the existing Mohawk Mahican Trail, primarily on town-owned property, but also crossing private property. The Mohawk Mahican Trail is a long-distance trail extending from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River. The first phase of the new trail construction would be from below the Sweetheart towards the village, a distance of about a mile. It would also include a spur from South Maple Street down towards the Deerfield River. The second phase would be an approximately .8-mile easterly extension on private property. The third phase would be to extend the trail westerly, ending at Deerfield Avenue. At this time only phase one was under consideration. The spur trail from South Maple Street is outside of the buffer zone. The main trail itself is within the buffer zone of the river. The trail has been professionally designed by Timber and Stone. Very little tree cutting is planned. Two possible dangerous trees, which are leaning, will be cut. The rest of the cutting would be just small trees and brush, and some limbing. The trail is as close as 50 feet to the river at some points but it is on a rise and is all above the high-water mark.

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John, to approve the plans for Phase 1 of the trail extension, according to plans submitted by the Open Space Committee on January 14, 2020, with a Negative 2 determination and no conditions.

Voting to approve: Norm, John, Ellen, Steve

Opposed: None

Abstaining: None

The next meeting was scheduled for February 11.

At 8:40 p.m. Steve, seconded by Ellen, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant

**Document List**

Minutes of November 26, 2019

RDA Application for Mohawk Mahican Trail

NOI Application for Brook Road