

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting April 22, 2013

Meeting called to order 7:10pm.

Present; David Schochet, Rita Jaros, Linda Herrera, Larry Flaccus, Cynthia Boettner, John Wheeler, Joel Dwight and Beth Manning representing the Ag Commission.

Joel appointed secretary pro-tem. Minutes from 3/24/13 reviewed and accepted.

David reviewed upcoming projects. Cynthia suggested this would be a good time to think about garlic mustard pulling.

David and Larry have met with Kimberly from FRCOG and discussed how she is going to present a compilation of survey and October meeting results for the OSRP. Larry said Kimberly is working on some simple goals to work on going forward; she will be getting back to us on those. David then spoke about getting other committees/boards to have input in formulating the new OSRP. Larry will email a copy of the survey with comments to Beth. FRCOG has pledged \$5,000-\$6,000 worth of staff time to work on the OSRP.

Three things we could do;

- 1-have a public meeting for people to sign up to work on different aspects of the OSRP
- 2-could make available a handout of an executive summary to be picked up from a table at a town meeting
- 3- we could have an executive group generate information.

Rita wondered if an executive summary could be made more widely available at the town clerk's office and on the town website and a newspaper article about the summary. Larry stated the recreation commission and Ag commission could begin to work on their parts as well as open space committee and planning board working on theirs to pre-develop some ideas which might serve as a structure for a public meeting after the four groups get together. Cynthia suggested emailing results to facilitators and those most actively involved in the October meeting and see if they would be interested in working within the framework to form a new OSRP.

John told us the planning board is interested in seeing the survey results but also noted that they have a number of projects which are keeping them quite busy currently. David thought OSC might suggest some guidelines to give the other groups a framework to guide their suggestions and a date by when their ideas need to be available. Rita noted that our current OSRP is still a viable entity upon which we should pull in new ideas from the survey and not necessarily feel we are starting from scratch. Larry said the last time this was done the other boards didn't always follow through with as strong of an interest and commitment as might have been desirable. Beth told us the Ag Commission is mustering to push forward.

The group decided to do an executive summary and make it available to show the other boards what is especially pertinent to them. Larry noted there are also components of the survey that are directly related to the Conservation commission and that they should be included as an additional group and perhaps material should also be directed to the ZBA. The group agreed the informational packets directed to the separate groups don't need to be made available before

town meeting but the executive summary should be available for the town meeting which is only two weeks away. John suggested the packet going to the planning board could be sent to Liz Kidder who would then forward it on to the members. Linda said the groups could get the surveys and go from there without more detailed directions which would streamline the process and simplify the amount of work we would have to do and the reduce the time we need to invest. Linda will scan the summary and comments and send it out. Cynthia stated if Kimberly is forming an executive summary we need to get it for review in time for town meeting.

The group then talked to Beth about topics more specifically related to the Ag Commission such as holding more meetings and getting more people involved whether by increasing the number of people that can be appointed to the Commission or somehow providing more people for help and input. Beth agreed there is a lot of interest in Shelburne in agriculture and it would be great to reach out to more individuals with interest for help. Rita said that larger membership makes for a greater variety of skills and less of a heavy burden on just a few people in doing the work of the committee. Beth agreed that more input from non-farmers would be beneficial as well.

We then discussed if we should have a set format for our minutes. Larry said he would like to see an actions or next steps line and that on the new town website the agendas and minutes after approval can be posted. Some of us could be trained to enter the minutes to the town of Shelburne website. Rita volunteered to do the website postings, Larry will contact the individual who hosts the website so several people can be trained to do it. Larry thinks Terry maybe able to set it up so all the committees' reps could learn at once.

We next talked about trails. Linda says there has been a lot of trash on the trail up from Shelburne Falls and some vandalism such as broken picnic tables, carving on the tables, writing on the tower etc. Larry said the Rec Commission could be involved in this because hiking trails were a very important thing reflected by the survey results. Rita said she has had a concern about this all along and that we bear some responsibility having worked to promote the use of the trails. Rita would like us to better mark the Wooded Loop trail on John Payne's property and John has suggested an additional loop to include a pond that is near the current trail. John Wheeler mentioned the water department has talked about opening trails up to hikers as they have opened them up to snowmobiles. David said he, Linda and Joel should review the trail blazes. David told us we are ready to mount the tree id signs directly to the trees on the Wooded Loop trail.

We then talked about ways to develop housing in a more open space friendly way through methods such as cluster housing.

Cynthia reminded us that it is garlic mustard pulling season and we will again work in conjunction with the boy scouts in the Patten District. She is busier with other projects than in past years and hopes someone else maybe available to coordinate those activities. Larry wondered if we could engage in the National Garlic Mustard Pulling competition. Usually we pull around 2-3 times from 6:30 to dark. Cynthia will send the contact information on to David and he will try to line it up. Cynthia told us a contractor that worked on the island near Crab Apple Whitewater cut Japanese knotweed after high growth then when it re-grows applies RODEO herbicide on the lower growth.

We then talked about the Rainville property and the chance that Audubon maybe interested in the property which is being sold all as one piece. David said the Patten Hill Trust is looking at options for putting their property into some type of conservation. The group also spoke about John and Carolyn Wheeler's property as being part of a large joining tract. David spoke about the McKinnon field in Shelburne Center which has been reduced in price and is somewhere around 10 acres. Rich Hubbard suggested this would be a goodtime to attempt to raise funds to purchased the property buy the land trust and then lease or sell it at agricultural value to a local farmer. David said there is \$60,000 in pledges now, it is appraised at \$300,000 and is now listed at \$350,000. Larry said we have about \$13,000 in the donation account and there are several other accounts from the town but the information on amounts actually in each account are a bit muddled. David noted another property for sale is the 80 acres connected with the former Anchorage Nursing Home.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm. Next meeting May 27th but the subcommittee may have to meet in between to prepare informational packets.