

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 8/25/14

Meeting called to order 7:06 pm

Members present David Schochet , Gene Butler, Rita Jaros, Cynthia Boettner, Linda Herrera , Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

Minutes from July meeting reviewed and accepted with minor amendments

We need to follow up with Larry about something from the July meeting concerning an easement and the state land at the fire tower

Rita reported we had a \$134.00 in our account from selling trail maps

Cynthia spoke about a Japanese Stilt Grass event going to be held tomorrow night She explained how it grows and takes over the forest understory. the meeting will be at the hairpin turn going from South Shelburne Rd down into Greenfield. The group will meet at Davenport Way. From 4-6 pm people will learn about identification and control.

Cynthia then told us about Artie McCulla and his work on the culvert project, he would be glad to come and speak to us about the culvert project sometime this fall.

David added that Trout Unlimited is surveying the culverts on perhaps a county wide basis.

Cynthia also said Chris Myers is working on an emergency plan and told us about a film made about how a town in Vermont dealt with Hurricane Irene.

David and Cynthia talked about combining these related topics into one public event. Cynthia will speak with Artie and David will speak with the Trout Unlimited person as well as Shelburne Road Boss - Mark Shippee.

Cynthia also told us how there is a particular place near Larry Flaccus's where there is quite a lot of road kill on Route 2 where wetland type animals are crossing. She proposed working with UMass concerning this and the potential of putting a crossing underneath Rt 2

Gene suggested a fence along the north side of the highway to keep them off the road. Cynthia said Scott Jackson was a key person in the Amherst salamander crossing. People can send in photos and data into a UMass program that is tracking this sort of thing. Everyone agreed it might be interesting to meet with Scott Jackson about wildlife things we are involved with. Rita noted that this is a good example of when other town's OSCs could be invited to a meeting and she will look into this.

Gene wondered if FRCOG had a resident engineer as we used to have in the old county government he also thought we should contact other town's OSC and get feedback on what topics are of interest to them.

David spoke with Kimberley and the OSRP is nearly completed. He also spoke with her concerning the ability of FRCOG the ability to bring together different towns' OSCs. She suggested we write to Peggy Sloane.

David thought a simplification of the ORSP process might be possible.

Larry had requested that we look at the gas pipeline motion that we discussed at the last meeting and that we voted for the selectmen to take a position on. Larry or David will follow up with the selectmen on this.

Josh Taylor then made a presentation on his Eagle Scout project to improve the Wooded Loop Trail. He gave us all handouts documenting the work and explained what had been done including clearing, re-blazing, tree identification signs and arrows shoeing which way to proceed on the separate loops. Josh

and other scouts have been back several times to clear storm related debris and to finish up the project. A more accurate map was also made showing the position of the trail and the two loops relative to one another. Josh is passing this work along to other scout which could perhaps lead to a yearly maintenance walk. He will send us a pdf of the new map. This project will meet his requirements to be considered for the rank of Eagle Scout. Josh also told us more trails could be added and more loops included on the trail in the future. Joel suggested we could prepare a letter indicating our appreciation for Josh's hard work that he could include in his documentation. Norm thought perhaps Larry could write a letter to recommend Josh toward his goal of Eagle Scout.

Gene asked Josh if he or some other young person he knew would be interested in serving on the OSC. Norm told us we need another sign or two to connect the trail up from Stan Perry's to the Ridge Trail. Linda and Joel will work on that.

David showed us a nearly complete copy of the new OSRP. There will be color copies available for the public to see at the libraries and the town hall.

David said Beth sent a message that they have encountered some problems with the Harvest Dinner. They have added two members to the Ag Commission - Barbara Perry and Christine _____.

We are still looking for more members for the OSC as well. David spoke with Willow Cohen about possibly joining the OSC and she will get back to him. Rita will contact Lillian about joining the OSC. Norm will speak with Faith Williams and Joel will speak with Suzanna Totman. Norm will also see about getting the word out at the High School to attract young members.

David reported the Planning Board is not meeting in August and they now have full membership with the addition of Will Flanders.

Norm reported on the Recreation Committee. They had a very successful summer softball camp and are looking forward to a wonderful Halloween Ball. They are working on forming a hiking subcommittee.

The Rec committee is now at full membership and they meet this Weds 8-27-14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm Next meeting 9-27-14.

Respectfully submitted

Joel Dwight

Secretary pro tem