

Shelburne Open Space Committee

July 27, 2015

Shelburne Town Hall

Present: David Schochet (chair), Larry Flaccus, Rita Jaros, Linda Herrera, John Wheeler, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight, Tom Miner
Beth Manning (7:30pm), Eugene Butler (7:35pm)

Regrets: none

Guests: Whit Sanford

Lisa and Norm Davenport (7:30 pm)

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by David Schochet.

2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the 6/22/15 meeting were reviewed.

Action: moved by Flaccus, seconded by Jaros to accept the minutes as presented.

Approved unanimously.

Notes: Flaccus attended Josh Taylor's Eagle Scout ceremony and noted that the Open Space Committee was thanked for their support.

Visitors Center needs brochures.

Flaccus will duplicate disks of the OSRP for members.

3. **August Meeting:** Herrera suggested taking a break in August.

Action: Moved by Herrera, seconded by Jaros to suspend the August meeting unless critical business comes up.

Approved unanimously. Next meeting will be 9/28/15 unless recalled to meet earlier by the chair.

4. **OSRP Update:** status of the OSRP update will be focus of the next meeting

5. **Reports of Committees**

- **Board of Health:** has prepared "Clean Water" flyers and will be working with the Planning Board on relevant bylaws. It was suggested that the flyer content be posted on the Town website and that they develop a news story.

Action: Schochet will contact the Board for follow-up.

- **Planning Board:** is working on update to subdivision regulations with options for cluster development. They would like to invite Jeff Lacey from DCR speak about Natural Resource Protection zoning at a fee of \$100, if they can find the dollars.

Action: moved by Flaccus with second by Jaros to contribute \$25 from the OS revolving fund to bring the speaker to Shelburne, provided Select Board and other boards also contribute.

Approved unanimously.

- **Conservation Commission:** Has 2 projects in town to review.
- **Agriculture Commission:** no report (see discussion on dairy farming following.)
- **Recreation Commission:** no report

6. **Dairy Farming:** Norman and Lisa Davenport presented their concerns about the loss of dairy farms in the region, and would like the public to be more aware of the issues.

- There are 4 active dairy farms left in Shelburne with approximately 300 head. This is a reduction from about 30 farms fifty years ago when Snow's Dairy closed.
- Loss of farms directly impacts open space.
- The market price for milk does not compensate the farmer for the costs, so farming is no longer sustainable.
- Farmers are also aging out and no younger farmers are willing to take on the risk/costs.

Davenport recommended a public discussion about the issues. Asked about an ideal outcome for change, Davenport suggested a conversation focused on sustainability with the end result of developing a local milk processing plant.

It was suggested that Our Family Farms business model be reviewed to discover lessons learned in their effort to process milk locally.

It was noted that numerous action items in the OSRP related to the issue of farm sustainability, and that the Agriculture Commission was taking the lead in working on many of these items, although there are no easy answers. This is a regional issue and should involve farmers from adjacent communities who face the same pressures.

Action: OS will review action items and, in conjunction with the Agriculture Commission look at bringing together the Agriculture Commission, the Open Space Committee, CISA, The Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association and area farmers in a discussion forum with the public regarding the issues and next steps. (see addendum for relevant Action Items.)

7. Pipeline Advisory Committee: has been formed by the Select Board with representatives of Emergency Management, Open Space, Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Agriculture Commission. The proposed pipeline crosses 4 Shelburne properties.

- Two meetings have been held and major concerns developed. (see attached)
- Public information meeting scheduled August 14. August 31 is the deadline for FERC comments.

8. Next Regular Meeting: Next meeting will be 9/28/15 unless recalled to meet earlier by the chair.

9. Adjournment:

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 on motion by Herrera, second by Dwight.

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Flaccus, Secretary pro-tem

Attachment: Town of Shelburne Pipeline Concerns

Addendum:

Shelburne OSRP Action Steps relevant to Preservation of Farming

Shelburne OSRP Action Steps relevant to Preservation of Farming

Goal I. Ensure that the Town of Shelburne sustains its rural, agricultural, historic, and small town character.					
Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Funding Source	Status
1. Promote and support farming, forest management, and land resource-based businesses.	A. Further refine and promote best communication strategies to keep landowners aware of current information and resources addressed by this objective.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing		
	D. Organize periodic forums/workshops for farm/forest owners to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information, concerns and possible solutions to challenges facing landowners.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee	2014 and ongoing		
	E. Host forums, lectures and “meet the farmer” get-togethers to help connect the general community to the farming community and educate the public on farming practices and issues.	Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing		
	F. Develop and implement a broad spectrum of strategies (i.e., branding, cooperatives, marketing, and markets) to promote Shelburne-grown/produced, land resource based products within the town and beyond.	Agricultural Commission; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014 and ongoing		

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Objective	Action	Responsible Boards Relevant Groups	Timeframe	Funding Source	Status
	G. Create a “Shelburne-Grown” logo/label for Shelburne farmers to use and encourage stores to carry/highlight locally grown and produced products.	Agricultural Commission	2014	Ag Commission	Logo contest held and logo developed and posted for Shelburne farmers to access
	H. Post on a Website and produce a brochure showing Shelburne farms and locally-produced agricultural products.	Agricultural Commission; Franklin Regional Council of Governments; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2014-2015		Master map developed siting Shelburne Farms
	I. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions and the Grange to host a “locavore” dinner at Fellowship Hall using locally grown products.	Agricultural Commission; Neighboring town Agricultural Commissions; Shelburne Grange	2015		Dinner held 10/14; invitation developed; raffle items solicited
	J. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions to develop and promote an Agricultural Tour in the area, similar to the “Crafts of Colrain” tour.	Agricultural Commission; Neighboring town Agricultural Commissions; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2015-2017		

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	K. Collaborate with area Agricultural Commissions to develop a proposal and secure purchasing contracts with the Mohawk School District for the purchase of a percentage of locally produced meat, milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables used by the district.	Agriculture Commission; Mohawk Regional School Committee; District member town Agricultural Commissions	2015-2018		
	N. Extract and analyze USDA census data on Shelburne farms to better understand economics of farming, identify needs of farmers and impacts of farming on the community.	Agricultural Commission; Franklin Regional Council of Governments	2014-2015		
	O. Collaborate with groups (e.g.: Massachusetts Woodland Cooperative, CISA, etc.) to provide landowners with comprehensive marketing for all farm products, including timber and fuel wood.	Agricultural Commission; CISA	2015-2017		
	P. Convene work groups of farmers representing different products (fiber, milk, meat, waste wood, etc.) to explore processing needs and options in western New England,	Agricultural Commission; CISA; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association	2015-2018		

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	Q. Develop a long term strategy to insure that the APR program pays fair market value for farmland.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee	2015-2017		
	R. Hold meetings with appropriate state agencies and local officials to hear concerns of farmers/forest managers and to advocate for relief from taxation of farm buildings.	Agricultural Commission; Select Board; Finance Committee; Assessors	2014-2015		
	S. Create a K-12 agriculture-based curriculum/activities, including field trips to Shelburne farms and agricultural resources. Review Hawlemont School agricultural program and identify best practices to use throughout the school system.	Agricultural Commission; Hawlemont School; Mohawk Regional School District	2015-2018		Hawlemont curriculum developed
	A. Research and make recommendations in regard to zoning bylaw revisions that allow flexible development in support of local agriculture, open space, and rural character.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015		
	B. Review Shelburne sub-division regulations and identify opportunities for revisions to support flexible development options in support of local agriculture and rural community.	Planning Board; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2014-2015		

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	C. Develop a focus group dealing with issues and proposed solutions relative to Shelburne Falls village sustainability, including commercial viability, traffic and parking issues, and residential support needs, while maintaining small town character.	Select Board; Housing Authority; Planning Board; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association; Council on Aging; Town of Buckland; Shelburne Falls Area Partnership	2015-2016		
	D. Work with the Planning Board and Historic Commission to develop voluntary design standards for new development and reconstruction in the village centers to ensure preservation of the historic cultural districts in Shelburne Falls and Shelburne Center.	Planning Board; Historic Commission; Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association			
	E. Work with the Economic Development Commission and the Long-Range Planning Committee to balance development needs with open space/rural character needs to ensure the protection of agricultural and natural resources .	Open Space Committee; Economic Development Commission; Long-Range Planning Committee; Select Board	2015-2019		

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5. Develop sources of revenue to fund conservation and natural resource protection.	A. Identify and pursue state and private grants for the protection of open space that are appropriate and applicable to Shelburne's OSRP goals.	Open Space Committee; Select Board; Agricultural Commission	2014 and ongoing		1/14 Draft Open Space & Rec Plan tentatively approved by DCR allowing application for Land Grants
	D. Establish a fund that would allow for gifts and/or fund-raising to provide resources for future projects and/or for a revolving loan fund to assist a farmer in need.	Agricultural Commission	2014		Approved by 2014 Annual Meeting
	E. Work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee to advocate for and establish planned budgeting for open space, historic preservation and agricultural preservation.	Agricultural Commission; Open Space Committee; Historic Commission; Long-Range Planning Committee; Capital Improvements Committee; Select Board; Finance Committee	2014 and ongoing		