

OSC Meeting November 23 2015

Meeting called to order 7:16 pm

Members present Cynthia Boettner, David Schochet, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, and Joel Dwight.
Joel appointed note taker.

Minutes from October reviewed and accepted.

David reported on his visit with the Ag Commission regarding Norm and Lisa Davenports concerns about agriculture in Shelburne. John was also there for part of the meeting as well as Ernie Kelley. David didn't think there was support for a community meeting about the town supporting agriculture in Shelburne. Cynthia spoke about how similar things had been done and that it all pretty much boiled down to marketing. John told us CISA does some general things to help but it is ultimately up to the individual farm to self promote. He also told us there were discussions about farmers markets and the need to market outside of this area where there was more available money and a denser population. Norm said there seemed to be interest in Shelburne agriculture as shown by the right to farm law and creation of the Ag Commission, he further wondered if the Shelburne Falls Business Association could be of help. The group discussed how some local farms such as Apex Orchards are marketing at farmers markets as far away as Somerville. Cynthia wondered if local farms might have a day where they would all be open for a Shelburne farm tour and open house such as Cider Days. John said they had open houses spring and fall on their own farm and they get a different crowd on Cider Days. Davids takeaway was the Ag Commission wasn't excited about rallying around the effort. They are getting ready for a 2016 Shelburne Farm Dinner and they will make an attempt at more follow-up after that. John suggested to them that they should have a presentation about farms that are currently in production which would be a different angle from the last time where they presented photos of times past. Cynthia had an idea of having local products for sale at the next dinner but also thought that may be too much to pull off. John reported that he thinks there are ten maple producers in Shelburne. The group also discussed the possibility of a single place that would market Shelburne produced ag items.

David then told us the culvert people are about ready to make presentations of their findings. He will send out notifications to interested parties to see if they would like to attend such a presentation. It would be about the state of the culverts and how they interact with wildlife and how they work; the presenter would be Scott Jackson. Cynthia wondered if the presentation should be open to the public. Norm thought there would be general interest. The culvert group has looked at every road stream crossing throughout the state. The general consensus was the presentation should be open to the public if that were agreeable to the Selectboard. Joel suggested contacting Dick Hillman and Chris Davenport as people who are knowledgeable about culverts. David will look into it further.

David told us Larry Flaccus had gone to the Selectboard meeting to suggest they support the Mohawk Trails Woodlands Project and the Selectboard was supportive of it. They will work on town participation which then allows Shelburne land owners to voluntarily participate which would not be possible without the Selectboard officially expressing interest.

David reported on the last pipeline meeting and the municipal coalition against the pipeline. There are eight towns that have joined and they are considering or have hired a lawyer to represent them. Some of the Shelburne Pipeline Advisory Committee are supporting joining the group but some are not. The Selectboard will decide upon joining or not. Bob Manners felt the consensus of the meeting was Shelburne join the group. There was also talk about the impact on roads. The committee thought Mark Shippee should photograph the current road conditions on the most likely truck route. The committee has a template for towns and landowners to seek intervenor status. Norm thinks there is something in

our state constitution that forces the topic to come before our state legislature. David told the group about the Hilltown Rights list serve, which is mostly talking about the pipeline with a few other topics now and then.

Cynthia then reported on the solarize Shelburne program. She suggested that the more people interested would increase the likelihood of obtaining a grant. Joel wondered who was funding the grant and no one seemed to know. Cynthia said the solarize Shelburne committee members would know. Eversource customers are eligible to participate in the program. Cynthia thinks they are planning a day when people could go about and observe different systems that are in use.

Norm reported for the Recreation Commission. They had a successful Halloween Ball but hard figures were not yet available. He said they had a similar number of people as last year; perhaps 60 to 100. They are planning another event at the Cowell called Early Night focused on children sometime in the first week of the new year. He also told the group there is a free clothing outlet as well as the food pantry in the basement of the gymnasium and is open during the same hours as the food pantry. There is a clothing drop off box outside. Trinity Church is in charge of the clothing drive. Also, pickleball is coming to the Cowell and there is likely to be a demonstration that is open to all interested parties.

John reported for the Planning Board. They are working on the draft for zoning that will replace the cluster housing section. FRCOG is working with them. The funding is good through December but FRCOG may seek an extension. They are looking for their final first draft to be ready in December. Recommendations and draft would go out to other committees in January. John told us cluster development would be an option but not the only path for development. It will be a separate zoning bylaw that would have to be passed by two thirds of a town meeting vote. It would work on preserving 40% of the land rather than the 25% now under cluster housing. There would be incentives to preserve a higher percentage of the land. Community water and septic would be possible. He also spoke about road requirements and retained ownership of the conserved land or the cluster housing group could have ownership.

David told the group about a workshop in Plymouth on December 2nd from 2 - 3:30 pm. On mapping and reserving parcels for resilience.

Our next meeting would be December 28th but we will skip it unless there is a substantial reason not to.

Meeting adjourned 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Dwight