

Shelburne Open Space Committee
February 27, 2017
Shelburne Town Hall

Present: David Schochet (chair), Larry Flaccus, Linda Herrera, John Wheeler, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight, Norm Beebee, Arlene Patenaude, Norm Davenport (8:45pm)

Regrets: none

Guests: Wendy Ferris, FLT, Cynthia Boettner

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by David Schochet.

2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the 1/23/17 meeting were reviewed.

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

Approved unanimously.

3. **Riverfront Trail Proposal:** Wendy Ferris (FLT) discussed the potential of creating a riverfront trail on property along the river given to the town by Lillian Davenport. The SF Village partnership has been discussing village improvements, and access to the river, and access to outdoors were identified as priorities.

Dr. Topalski owns an adjacent parcel and would be willing to provide access through his property. He may also have parking available. This would be easier than access off Masonic Ave which abuts a steep ravine. JS Rae (Sweetheart) also abuts the parcel but is not interested at this time in providing access. The parcel could connect with an existing FLT parcel through land owned by the electric co and another owner.

Issues:

- Parcel is along the riverfront – what are conservation/wetland restrictions?
- Is this a priority habitat area?
- The Mass Liability Law releases the town from land opened for public access.
- Access is down a steep bank which could require landscaping or steps.

No town funds would be required. It might be possible to bundle this trail with others for a State Trails Grant, but not until 2018 spring. Wendy may have access to volunteer labor to build a trail if feasible.

Action: The committee supported the concepts and wished to examine details further;

- Perry is willing to flag the lot corners if we can locate deeds.
- Ferris will look into deeds and review the biomap for priority habitats.
- Beebe will talk with Joe Judd about next steps and any potential actions for town meeting this spring.
- Group will find a time to walk the property in the next few weeks to ensure a route is viable.

4. **Announcements:**

- March 25th – Conservation Conference
- Schochet attended a FLT hike in Buckland with Tamarack Hollow group on FLT land
- Schochet and Flaccus attended talk by Sue Morse on climate change and impacts on wildlife

5. **Open Meeting Law:**

Chair will serve as Open Meeting Records Officer

6. **Green Communities:**

Schochet and Wheeler attended a presentation with town officials on becoming certified as a “Green Communities”.

FRCOG reviewed the criteria which include:

- Zoning by right for up to 250kw solar array.
- Compliance with building ‘stretch codes’ including minimizing life cycle costs.
- Town plan to cut energy by 20%
- Expedited permitting
- Purchase of fuel-efficient trucks

Planning Board has already proposed a zoning amendment for Town Meeting for the 250kw solar array.

Money for the program comes from the carbon tax, and once certified, additional funds would be available to the town for upgrades, etc.

7. GIS Mapping System

The Assessors are acquiring a GIS mapping system that will incorporate tax maps as well as all other digital land use maps of the Open Space Committee. Schochet has been in touch with assistant assessor Jennifer Morse.

8. Tree Survey:

The tree survey project was not funded in the FRCOG allocation for this year, but has been put on a waiting list. FRCOG is exploring other funding opportunities. It was noted that a village walk incorporating the proposed river trail would be a great trail for residents and visitors. GSFABA has contracted for a new map of the village, and once this is published we can explore whether it could incorporate these walks in future editions.

9. Culvert Survey:

Katherine MacArthur from MASS DOT is working on final results of a culvert survey and will come to discuss Shelburne culverts later this Spring. It was noted we should have solid info in hand before we call a general meeting of Selectboard, Highway, Emergency Management, Conservation, Planning Board, etc. to discuss results and potential actions.

10. Reports of Committees:

- **Planning Board:** held a public hearing on proposed bylaw revisions on parking. Following input, they have revised the proposal and will hold another hearing on March 22. Also included is a Marijuana moratorium.
- **Recreation Commission:** is continuing to explore playground locations and is looking as a spot adjacent to Cowell Gym. Expressed extreme interest in riverfront trail proposal.
- **Conservation Commission:** will look at issues regarding proposed riverfront trail when more details are available.
- **Agriculture Commission:** no report

8. Annual Report:

Flaccus will draft the Annual Report which is due February 28.

9. Next Regular Meeting: Next meeting will be 3/27/17.

10. Adjournment:

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 on motion by Herrera, second by Dwight.

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Flaccus, Secretary pro-tem