

Shelburne Open Space Committee
Minutes of October 23, 2017 Meeting
Shelburne Town Hall

Present: Norm Bebee, Norm Davenport, Larry Flaccus, Linda Herrera, Arlene Patenaude, Jim Perry, David Schochet (chair), John Wheeler

Guests: Scott Jackson (UMass Dept of Environmental Conservation), Kate McArthur (Mass DOT), Cynthia Boettner (former OSC member), Chris Myers (Shelburne Emergency Response Coordinator), Mark Shippee (Supervisor, Shelburne Highway Dept).

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by David Schochet.

- 1. Scott Jackson** provided the gathering with a **presentation about the recently concluded State-wide culvert/road-stream crossings survey** Concerns about recent and future powerful weather events (71% increase in heavy rain events in NE) and their impact on transportation infrastructure (especially culvert safety and effectiveness) have resulted in a need for closer monitoring of the condition of culverts, their impact on non-aquatic wildlife, and vulnerability of road systems at stream crossings.

An astounding amount of data (including the ranking of the safety of all individual culverts), has been collected State-wide town by town, analyzed, and incorporated into a data-base and computer program, Stream Crossings Explorer **sce.ecosheds.org**, which can be accessed by the public. It contains a built-in how-to-use seminar so anyone can learn to navigate the system and access the info they are interested in.

Once repair/replacement info has been gathered using the SCE, towns will be able to apply to the state for funding through DOT; for assistance in developing hazard mitigation plans through the state (tapping into FEMA \$); and for projects with high ecological value. The Mass Division of Ecological Restoration provides both grants and trainings, right up the road in Ashfield. Towns are invited/urged to consult the SCE when writing or renewing their Open Space and similar planning documents.

Thank you, Scott, for all the effort, for the amazing document and for taking the time to share it with us.

- 3. Village Tree/Historic Walk**

--Ryan Clary (GIS specialist at FRCOG) has been away in Puerto Rico as part of the emergency assistance team.

He's expected to be back right after the beginning of November.

-- Larry reported that he had updated the brochure draft to include some of Cynthia's/Jim's suggestions.

--Arlene reported that she had checked with the Assessor's to confirm that we had correctly identified the actual owners of property that the identified trees are growing on. She did not make contact with any of the owners.

--We agreed that we would wait until we had at least an attractive mock-up of the brochure/map and Committee agreement about signage or signage options before we contacted property owners. We also agreed that we would also wait until we were further along in the project before we would create and disseminate publicity material.

-- We agreed that we will aim to have the whole project completed and the brochure distributed by the town's 250th celebration.

--David will contact Voss and find out what would be involved in making signs for trees that Voss does not have signs in stock for.

- 2. Deerfield River Trail**

David will speak with the new owner of the Singley property about the proposed trail and his receptiveness to "hosting" it.

- 4. Reports of Committees:**

- **Planning Board:** About to hold hearing on the responses to the Housing Survey. Continued work on Town-wide parking.
- **Recreation Commission:** Alan Harris (Wilcox Hollow access) was invited to, but did not attend, the recent meeting of the Committee. Thanks and congratulations were extended to the RecComm for the great new tennis courts!!
- **Conservation Commission:** No pressing business currently.
- **Agriculture Commission:** No report

on the tennis courts

- 5. Next Regular Meeting:** Next meeting will be 27Nov17.

- 6. Adjournment:**

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 on motion by Hererra, second by Perry and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by David Schochet, Secretary pro-tem