

Shelburne OSC Meeting Minutes 12/11/17

Members present Jim Perry, John Wheeler, Tom Johnson, David Schochet, Norm Beebe, Larry Flaccus, and Joel Dwight

David called the meeting to order at 7pm. Joel was appointed secretary pro tem. Minutes of Oct. 23, 2017 were accepted with two abstentions and one small correction. No new agenda items.

### **Tree Walk Project**

Larry, David and Jim met with Ryan Clary of FRCOG about the draft brochure for the tree walk project. Ryan has all the information he needs, has finished the map, and is working on the text. He is preparing a rough draft for the committee to work with and adjust.

The group decided to **take the columnar maple out of the brochure** as it is more of a structural identification than a separate species.

David reported that we have **a little leaf linden that Voss signs** will make a sign for at an extra charge and we need to send photos and information about the tree.

The group then discussed **mounting the signs** and we will need a variety of methods which we can address when we look at the individual trees. Next step will be talking with landowners then publicizing the brochure once it is available. . Larry suggested we use stainless steel screws for attachment. Jim said we should use either square or torques drive screws. A group of us will go out to check trees for potential sign placements. Joel will look into screws and then look into trees with others who are interested. We hope to be done before the January meeting.

Larry suggested **contacting the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary organizing group** to make them aware of the brochure and look for some money to help with the **printing costs**. Tom told us the prison in Greenfield has a print shop that can be utilized at a modest price. Larry suggested the Tech School might as well.

We decided to **first show draft brochures and signs to land owners and get their opinions**. Larry thought it would be a good idea to wait until January while others thought it would be good to get on with the job now. Arlene Patenuade has started to **connect landowner names** with non-publicly owned trees. David will talk to Arlene about who the landowners are. We will identify which members will speak with which landowners. Norm suggests approaching the people we know first to get their reactions. Jim said we should notify DigSafe before we pound any re-rods into the ground. We may want to contact the Historical Society as well. David would like to have an article in the newspaper in February. Larry said we really need to speak with the 250<sup>th</sup> committee hoping they might have some available funds as well as the Historical Society and Shelburne Falls Business Association to help cover the costs of producing the brochure.

## **In- town Deerfield River Hiking Trail**

David spoke with the Singley building owner who is receptive to the trail crossing his land but wants more information to see how it may affect things in the future. Wendy Sweetser Ferris had told David the Land Trust was interested in the trail when it was coming from Mayhews, but are not so interested in it now. Jim had been thinking that we should purchase easements: he had been hoping Franklin Land Trust would help us with easements and a contractor to look into how the trail might be constructed. Jim had spoken with Melissa Patterson of the Land Trust about the trail and she seemed more receptive to making something happen. Norm thought the woman that owns property behind the state police barracks would need to be contacted. There is a contractor in Vermont who would suggest how the job might be done for a fee of \$600-800. Jim and David may speak with Wendy and Melissa together at the same time. Norm will speak with Terry and the town accountant to see if any of our funds could be available for a feasibility study. Larry thought there might be a special town meeting coming up.

Jim reported on the **MassTrail Conference** which went for three days and included several hikes and a historic building walk in progress in Leominster. There were many workshops to chose from and information on how trails could tie in with health promotion and nature as well as community/kids and economic development. One town they studied had connected their parks with trails.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem