

Shelburne Open Space Committee Minutes 4/26/21

Larry called the meeting to order at 7 pm

Members present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan Greenfield, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Thor Holbek, Tom Johnson, Garth LaPointe, and Joel Dwight

Members not in attendance: Norm Davenport (Conservation Commission Liaison), Liaison from Ag Committee

Guests: Lara Radysh and Bob Higgins from South Maple Street

Minutes reviewed and accepted unanimously with one spelling correction. Norm moved to accept and Jim seconded.

Larry added two items to the agenda: CPA Committee meeting this , and the Annual Report. He then called for other new items and none were offered.

Larry reported that Jim, Norm B, Larry and David had **spoken with Town Counsel concerning easements** needed for the new trail; she suggested Kim Levitch would be a good source to value easements. We do need to wait for the survey to be done by Guntlow Associates. Under Mass law, both the town as well as abutters who allowed the public onto their land for recreation purposes would be relieved of liability. Also discussed was whether Bell Atlantic or the Town owns the river front, and was there an easement allowing access to the river.

David had no **new information on abutters**. He last talked to Patrick Killgellen a month ago and received a positive response.

David sent a letter to **the Mass Architectural Access Board** in mid March asking them to put into writing what he had been told by the compliance officer. The compliance officer called David last week and they would like a little more information on the project before giving a written response. David left a message with the compliance officer to see what they needed but hasn't heard back from him. Tom thought we might send them the Timber and Stone report to give them a sense of the terrain we are working with. David will look at that to see if it makes sense and shows it well. Larry suggested we should wait for Guntlow's survey which would show a topographical and GPS the length of the Lillian Davenport property. David will check with the compliance officer and find out what would be most helpful to him. Norm and Tom both supported Larry's idea of waiting for the Guntlow survey; that work should be done by June 1st. Tom said Guntlow should be forwarded the LYDAR map we have which might be very useful to them. Larry got an estimate from Guntlows of \$14,400 for the survey, which is above our budget, and wrote back to them that that needs to be slimmed down and is waiting for a reply.

David asked if the Mayhew Steel deed had been looked at in relation to Mill Road easement. Jim said the deed states Mayhew property ends at the southern boundary of Mill Road and follows along it. Larry said the Guntlow survey should provide validation this. Additionally, the first part of the survey is for wetlands and invasive species. The second part is laying out of boundaries, etc. Larry also reminded Jim we need to flag the proposed trail so Guntlow will be able to follow it. David reminded Jim that Timber and Stone used pink flags in their markings. Norm will join Jim in flagging the trail route and they will try to get it done in a week or so. Joel suggested taking photographs of the flagged route once it is completed because people like to move flags around or remove them entirely.

David **received a letter from Dr. Robert Miller** stating that he hoped the trail would not be down close to the river because of the view that can be enjoyed from the sidewalk overlook. David and Jim will work on a letter to reply to Dr. Miller.

Larry moved us onto **the Wooded Loop Trail**. Jim posted some temporary signs to keep people off the logging haul road on the eastern side of the Orange Loop. **Thor** will let Jim know when the mud is dried up and the work is done so he can adjust signs accordingly. Thor noted the area is not very accessible across the 15 acre clear cut and he is going to reattach signs that have fallen off their posts.

Larry said that two 18x24 signs about invasive species have been ordered from Vacker for \$824, \$300 coming from the Cultural Council grant and the rest from the Mohawk Trail grant. They will both fit on top of 4x4 posts. Jim has all the 4x4s but will need two more steel points to do the 14 signs that are planned. Larry said we should be able to cover that with the 2021 Mohawk Trail grant and that we are tax exempt for these purchases.

Joanie is taking the **Invasives Brochure to the copiers** for a cost estimate. We have \$840 available to pay for it.

Jim said the Wooded Loop Trail brochure is ready to be printed. Jim is working on the High Ledges and Tower Trail brochures and will try to get those completed by the end of summer. Larry said that some of our funding needs to be used by the end of June and he will see if he can get an extension. Joni volunteered to go to the print shop for Larry. Jim is working on 6 other signs related to climate change, environmental health, etc. Jim said the Wilcox Hollow road is still not good and the entities that need to work on it are very slow. There are two different power companies and the state involved and it is not easy to get anyone to act. Larry reminded us that part of our Cultural Council grant has an educational component that will involve the local schools.

Joanie volunteered to make some contacts before school is out to get on their fall agenda. She will wait for the brochures to be ready so she can share them with the schools. Jim told the group **about the hike to the tower this Wednesday with the Franklin Land Trust** and they will talk about the signs that are coming. Franklin Land Trust will also talk about voluntary public access program that helps to pay for hiking trails on private land dealing with invasive species, tree id tags, etc.

Tom reported the **identification sign** for the Eastern White pine on the east side of Maple Street across from Carol Angus needs work because the sign has broken off the post. David said the White Fir tree

sign on Bridge Street is missing. Larry said if we need new tree tags we could get matching ones from Voss using the 2021 Mohawk Trail grant. David reminded the group there used to be a Shagbark Hickory sign in front of Harriet Payne's (3 So Maple St) He will speak with the new owners to see if they would be agreeable to having that sign restored there. Larry said he had negotiated with Vackers and got a discount on the 12 signs coming from them with frames and post toppers-(we supply the 4x4s and steel tips).

New Business

Larry agreed to work on updating the 2020 Annual Report for Town Meeting.

The **CPA Committee** will meet with Alyssa from FRCOG. Terry, the town administrator, wants to form a working committee to fine tune the CPA proposal for Shelburne. The meeting on CPA is this Wednesday at 5:30 on Zoom.

Tom said he is finishing up his service on the Planning Board at the end of the year at Town Meeting. Committee members expressed their dismay that his valuable involvement in the OSC will be sorely missed and urged him to apply for membership on the OSC to fill one of the vacant At-Large seats.

Committee Reports

Tom reported that the Planning Board is having a joint meeting with the ZBA this Wednesday about small lots to help with **affordable housing** and installation of small reach 5G internet systems in relation to **internet antennas**. **Thor told the group the town can request that the cell antennas** within the town be camouflaged to match with the surrounding architecture.

Norm reported for the Rec Committee. The girls softball league has been discontinued (but may get reinstated once the COVID problem has passed) and they are holding off on opening the outdoor basketball courts due to COVID. Courts are open to tennis now. **Pickleball** is also going to be played outside this year and the court is being relined. They are considering **starting a new recreational activity**: group walks on all the roads in Shelburne Norm will have Bill Buck reach out to Joni and Jim who expressed an interest in the road walking. The **Rec Committee is posting on Facebook about their activities**. No Ag Commission or Conservation Commission reps available to report. No visitor or guest comments.

Next meeting will be by zoom 7pm Monday, May 24th.

Larry adjourned the meeting 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight

Secretary Pro Tem