

The virtual meeting was called to order on Zoom at 7 p.m. by the co-Chair, Larry Flaccus. Other members present were Norman Beebe, Jim Perry, Joan Greenfield, David Schocket, and Tom Johnson. Visitor Lara Radysh also attended online. The meeting was recorded.

The minutes of the April 26 meeting were corrected and approved unanimously.

Old business:

1. Update on the Shelburne Falls Riverside Trail.
 - a. David spoke with Mark Lesser of the Massachusetts Access Board regarding what requirement there might be for handicapped access to the proposed trail. Mark requested more information such as the surveyed map of the trail and accompanying photographs that would allow him to determine what would be an appropriate requirement.
 - b. Norm reported that he and David met with two individuals from Guntlow Associates who surveyed in the proposed trail location with GPS and delineated wetlands that might need to be crossed with boardwalks. They flagged and identified invasive vegetation. Guntlow will furnish a report by June 1.
 - c. Larry is asking Guntlow to re-review their estimated cost for surveying in private property lines that would be crossed by the trail.
2. Wooded Loop Trail. Jim reported that the logging road on the eastern side of the orange trail is cluttered from ongoing logging operations but should be cleared and accessible for hikers by June 30th.
3. Invasive Vegetation – Interaction with local schools

Joan sent a letter to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School (BSES), offering input from Open Space Committee members to 5th and 6th grade teachers and students regarding invasive species in our area. The Open Space Committee has completed printing of 7000 brochures on invasive vegetation. The brochure was designed by Jim Perry with input from other members of the Open Space Committee, as well as excellent advice from Cynthia Boettner. The Committee discussed when might be the best time to approach BSES during the coming school year. Joan thought that it might be best to do this in the spring of 2022 when the new vegetation is just coming out and teachers may be in a better position than this fall for taking on new outside projects. More discussion followed, regarding what time of the year would be best to be teaching about invasive species and when teachers may be most receptive to our input.
4. Signs and brochures
 - a. Jim Perry requested that the Open Space Committee spend \$297.54 for trail sign posts and post anchors. A motion to approve the request was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - b. Jim showed two panels on invasive species to be installed – one on the Wooded Loop Trail and one proposed for either the Tower Trail or the Franklin Land Trust trail to Wilcox Hollow. The panels cost \$854 – expense approved unanimously

- by the Committee members. Jim will contact the Franklin Land Trust to discuss installing the panel on their trail.
- c. Jim is planning to have 2 copies of 6 different forest health signs (12 in all) to be manufactured by the Vacker sign company for \$3644. The signs would fit on 4X4 posts. Jim will ask Thor and Garth to identify sites for the signs to be installed on the Wooded Loop Trail. Jim will elaborate on this site placement at our next meeting.
 - d. Map brochures of the Wooded Loop trail and the Ridge Trail are being prepared. David mentioned that the supply of “Walking and Hiking Shelburne Trails” map brochure is almost depleted. Jim found the original pdf of this map while we were discussing this in the meeting. He is passing the pdf on to Joan, who will take this as well as the Wooded Loop trail maps to Copy Cat to have 2500 copies printed of each.
5. Community Preservation Act (CPA) update. David and Larry have attended the CPA meetings in which tax rates and exemptions are being discussed, as well as how CPA funds might be made available to the Open Space Committee. A meeting scheduled for 25 May 2021 will also be attended by Norm.
 6. Pollinator Project. A FRCOG initiative to establish “pollinator corridors” in Shelburne and a few other towns in the area is underway, and representatives of this project have been in correspondence with several town committees, including the Planning Board, the Open Space Committee, and the Conservation Commission. David has offered a tour of interested individuals along the M-M Deerfield River trail. David will speak with Helena Farrell of FRCOG to learn what outcome is desired. David made a motion that the OSC officially indicate support of the Pollinator Project. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. David will confirm our support.
 7. New Business. The tree removal associated with replacing water lines, sidewalks, curbing and road pavement on Bridge Street, extending from the iron bridge to Baker Avenue this summer, was discussed. While this activity will not remove any trees that are currently tagged and identified in the tree walk brochure that the OSC created two years ago, continuation of Bridge Street renovation next year will likely result in the removal of at least two trees presently in the tree walk brochure. This will require new trees to be tagged and a new brochure. We discussed the possibility of requesting funds for this to be provided by the Bridge Street Renovation project.
 8. Reports from other Committees
 - a. Tom reported that the Planning Board will be holding its open meeting on May 26, in which the proposed bylaw changes for the Annual Town Meeting would be presented to all who attend.
 - b. Norm Beebe had nothing new to report for the Recreation Committee.
 - c. David will again approach the Agricultural Commission for a representative to OSC.
 9. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on June 28.
 10. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Johnson