

Approved 3/28/22

Town of Shelburne

Minutes of Open Space Committee Meeting

February 28, 2022

Meeting called to order 7:02pm

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochett, Joan Greenfield, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, John Wheeler, and Joel Dwight

Guests: Lara Radysh and Bob Higgins

Minutes from January 24 approved with one spelling correction and one abstention.

Ongoing Business:

--**Wooded Loop Trail** – Larry spoke with the Paynes concerning the **possibility of expanding the trail system onto the Cosby property**. **Larry will draft a letter** that Margaret Payne could use to contact Mrs. Cosby for their consideration.

Jim and Joan prepared a paragraph on the Wooded Loop Trail for the March town newsletter.

Jim has been putting our trail system on online trail apps. This summer he plans on putting part of the Mohican Mohawk trail on GPS. He is also working on a **new Tower Trail map/brochure** that should be ready soon.

CPA Update:

Larry reported that the **February 16th CPA Forum** was attended by approx 25 people. Andrew Baker led the presentation. Questions were asked and discussed with no major objections raised by any of the attendees. **The next forum** will be May 4-- a week before the May 11th Town Meeting, where there will be a motion voted on to accept CPA being placed on the ballot in the next Town elections. (These two votes are part of the required process for a town to establish CPA).

Larry said that approving CPA should be a top priority for us in the coming month because preserving open space and creating recreational opplys are specific projects that CPA funds can be used for. **Norm asked if the Finance Committee and Selectboard** were in favor of adopting the CPA and Larry said he wasn't sure. **Joan asked if we need a plan of action** to get something

in the Recorder two or three times before the Town Meeting to promote adoption of the CPA. Everyone seemed to think this was a good idea. **Larry said the CPA working group will be meeting March 9th at 7pm and** suggested Joan might want to attend that. He also said a pre-Town Meeting meeting might be arranged.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Renewal:

Larry spoke with the Selectboard and found out that FRCOG technical assistance for OSRP renewal is a top Town priority for the next FRCOG funding round. We could then work with FRCOG on updating the OSRP, including a survey of town members opinions. David pointed out we also had done an informational meeting the last time that was well attended and suggested we should do that again. Larry pointed out that we also conducted information gathering via a questionnaire mailed to every Shelburne household: the survey and public meeting served as the core of the Section 9 Action Plan. David will contact Paul Catanzaro about the availability of Open Space Handbooks.

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Group:

Larry said the **MTWP has grant money up to \$20,000 available** to each participating town. **Norm said one project to consider would be a skating rink.** **John said** Whately is using CPA money to do a skating rink and you can go on the CPA website to see what other towns have done with the funds they have received from the program. **Larry thought** we could consider using a grant to extend the Wooded Loop Trail system over to Route 2 which could then connect to a trail down the Allen Brook. **Joan wondered** about outdoor fitness exercise stations that are popular in public parks around the country. Larry thinks Ashfield got a grant in the last grant round to build a similar setup at Sanderson Academy. Norm wondered if the Ashfield installation gets much use. He will discuss it with the Rec Committee at their next meeting.

April 27th is the deadline for the grant application.

Black Bear Safety:

Joel suggested the group look at the bearwise.org website and consider some of the handouts they have available. If we are encouraging hiking in bear country it would seem that safety brochures about bears are appropriate.

Rec Committee:

Norm reported the Cowell Gym is still on lockdown. They have also lost access to their email list which they are trying to locate.

Planning Board:

John reported they are trying to get ready for Town Meeting. The Attorney General has concerns over a greenhouse rule and a few other items. The state Cannabis Control Board has made a few changes that the Planning Board needs to consider. David wondered if there was any interest in marijuana growing in Shelburne. John said there was some interest a couple years ago at the Biscuit Hill site but they haven't heard anything about that since then.

The Planning Board is also working on making bylaws for signage on the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway (Route 2) easier to understand. They may have public meetings in April.

Visitor / Guests Comments:

Lara wondered about the status of the proposed trail along the river. She noted that on the Buckland side near Gardner Falls there is a little bridge that has been damaged and wondered if we could influence repair of that bridge. **Larry answered** the River Trail is on hold awaiting an estimate for the survey from Guntlow and Associates. Our committee has no influence on matters on the Buckland side of the river and a **suggested Chris Skelly might be good contact** as he has been working on Buckland trails. Norm suggested she might bring it up to the Buckland Selectboard. Lara also wondered who might trim the overgrowth at the Potholes lookout platform.

Larry announced David had turned 80 on 2/22/22. He also said we haven't heard anything back about riparian stabilization and climate mitigation from Conway School of Design.

Next meeting will be March 28th by Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Joan Greenfield. Seconded by Norm Beebe, and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight

Secretary Pro Tem