

## **Town of Shelburne**

### **Open Space Committee**

**Meeting Minutes August 22, 2022** (Approved 9/26/22)

**Members Present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus Garth Lapointe,, Jim Perry, David Schochet, John Wheeler

**Guests:** Kimberly Noake McPhee (FRCOG); Laurie Wheeler (Shelburne resident); Peggy Warwick (Shelburne resident)

Meeting is being recorded

**Meeting minutes from July 25, 2022-** The minutes were accepted with a few spelling corrections and one alteration concerning the pickle ball courts. Accepted as amended: moved by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry.

#### **Trail Status Update-**

Jim **mowed the Wooded Loop Trail** last week and reported he saw Garth (who's leg injury is improving).

**Jim led a Fire Tower Trail hike** to an overlook of the village that went very well. Jim is working on a writeup for the Town Newsletter about the upcoming September High Ledges hike that he will be leading.

The **Tower Trail brochures** have been printed and distributed. Available at the Village Info Center, where there has been a lot of interest in them.

**John Wheeler** said the water district has been talking to Audubon about taking over management of some of their land which **might be available for trails**. Larry thinks there may be a forest management grant involved with that land.

#### **Other News-**

**Larry** reported we are approved to **extend our Woodlands Partnership** grant to next July. Larry will be contacting surveyors for bids on the work needed at Deerfield Avenue.

David noted **the ball field on Little Mohawk Road** looks abandoned and Norm said he isn't certain what is going on there.

### **CPA Update-**

As the Town Meeting voted to put CPA on the November ballot, town committees (such as the OSC) can no longer take an official position on the issue.

### **Town OSRP Survey( with Kimberly)--**

Kimberly sent a draft survey out to members on August 19<sup>th</sup> for our review.

Larry thought the survey is laboriously long: he and Jim suggested not having the whole text of the environmental justice portion (paragraph beginning with "did you know") in the brochure's Intro section but rather have it begin with "as you fill out...."

**David wondered** if the deleted portion would appear anywhere else. Kimberly said there will be a discussion concerning environmental justice within the document.

Kimberly suggested we include a reminder that the community has all ages, abilities, and income levels. She felt this would be useful to help people be thoughtful of the rest of the community as they fill out the survey. David also felt it would be best to encourage people to consider what's best for the totality of the community, not just themselves. Larry commented he would like the section on open space to come first on the survey. Norm thought that would be fine.

Kimberly will condense the options to check under Recreation as much as possible. She will make question one into two columns for the paper version.

The Committee then went over the survey with Kimberly and shared questions and concerns.

### **Membership-**

**Joan Greenfield and Thor Holbeck have resigned** from the Committee, Thor having moved to eastern Mass, and Joan unable to continue to attend meetings. The Committee thanked Joan for the many and enthusiastic contributions to committee work, be they educational, trail maintenance, outreach. She allowed that she could be contacted should a project arise that matched her skill-set.

**Laurie Wheeler and Peggy Warwick** would like to join the committee. Larry explained the process to become members. **Laurie** spoke first. Her interests include making walking and hiking accessible to more people. She also has a good deal of experience in publicity, writing, photographic surveys, and is very enthusiastic. **Peggy Warwick** spoke about her passion for the outdoors. Being semi-retired she has time to engage in committee work. She really enjoys getting people into the outdoors and she also has a deep interest in birds. Larry referred Laurie and Peggy to the Town Website and the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan to learn about the various things the committee has been involved with.

A brief discussion followed nomination , and it was decided to act on Laurie's and Peggy's applications for membership. Jim moved (and Norm seconded) that Laurie be nominated for membership in the OSC. Peggy's nomination was moved by Jim Perry and seconded by David Schochet. Each nomination was approved unanimously: Larry will follow up with the Selectboard and officially recommend them for appointment.. He will also share the short biographies they submitted on to the Selectboard. Hopefully, they both will be official members by our next meeting in September.

#### **. Other News-**

Legislation has been proposed to **designate the Deerfield River as a wild and scenic river**. Larry spoke in favor of the legislation and has sent an information sheet out to our members. Jim said the town of Shelburne has already signed on in support of the legislation which includes support from 18 communities and 12 organizations. Larry will present the legislation to the Woodland Partnership to see if they will support it. Larry suggested that the OSC submit support as well. It will be a several years' process for the federal government to approve the designation. David motioned to approve sending letters of support to Jim McGovern and Ed Markey; Garth Lapointe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Planning Board Report from John Wheeler**

Planning **Board's next meeting is September 20th**. They are going to talk about climate resiliency and a member of the PB will be attending the FRCOG climate resiliency meeting. John also said concerns had arisen about some practices of some of the businesses along Rte 2--mostly involved with traffic, signage and parking. **Joel commented that we should be a bit careful** with regulating the businesses along the trail. Not only does it take a good deal of work and money to start and maintain a business along the trail but we also need to recognize that viable businesses along the Trail promote tourism: we have no farther to look than Calvin Call's former antique shop to observe what abandoned businesses look like. Garth agreed.

#### **Recreation Committee Report-**

Norm said the Recreation Committee has been working on the Open Space and Recreation Plan and will meet again in September.

#### **Other Comments-**

-- **Garth said he heard some of the Payne** property might be coming up for sale and we should be aware of how that might affect our plans in the future. **Larry** said he will try to find out more information.

David reported there was no correspondence. No comments from visitors or guests.

Next meeting will be September 26, 2022 by Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel V. Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem