

## Shelburne Open Space Committee Minutes 1/23/2023

**Meeting was called to order on Zoom by Larry Flaccus at 7:05 pm.**

**Present:** Norm Beebe, Larry Flaccus, Garth Lapointe, Jim Perry, David Schochet

The draft minutes of the December 2022 meeting were presented, and reviewed. Moved by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe and accepted by unanimous vote.

**Current trail report**—Garth reported that the **Yellow Loop** had significant amount of tree limbs down. A post-snow clean-up would be in order.

Jim reported that the Audubon High Ledge service road acts as a conduit for water runoff, making for significant and self-perpetuating erosion on Audubon property. The last storm resulted in significant road damage and fallen trees on Audubon property. Jim removed fallen branches from the Tower Trail.

### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Revision**

- Reviewed **sources of funding** for the expenses involved in completing the update of the Plan. A combination of FRCOG and MTWP grants will fund the renewal. Budget is comprised of the following sources:
  - \$7,000 in DLTA funds from FRCOG 2022 (expended)
  - \$7,000 from a 2022-2023 Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership grant (complete by 6/30/23)
  - \$7,000 in 2023 DLTA funds requested by the Selectboard from FRCOG (pending approval by FRCOG)
- Survey: At last count, 226 surveys have been completed, almost all done on-line. (Jim has been collecting the paper copies).
- Next steps: review and tabulate survey results and Public Hearing/public meeting (perhaps by April), to present and share the results of the survey to elicit discussion on action items to include in the plan
- Andrea is working on finishing Chapter 4 update, incorporating input from the OSC.

### **Educational Opportunities—**

- The weekend Keystone Training is open for applicants. Many OSC members have already taken this rich opportunity to explore land preservation issues and to meet conservation advocates from around the Commonwealth. Highly recommended that OSC members attend. Link to application was distributed, and we will write a recommendation for anyone wishing to attend.
- Open Space Conference features a 4-seminar series of noon-time webinars on a variety of topics of interest to Open Space members and landowners as well as those involved in land preservation/use, etc. One Thursday will feature info on writing/renewing OSRPs.

**Town Newsletter**—Jim has been working with Andrew on the Town newsletter, coming up with topics of interest and writing short monthly blurbs. He would appreciate topic suggestion ideas ---March and maple sugaring; and April for a public meeting to report on the survey results.

**Community Preservation Act**—Now that voters have approved Shelburne’s participation in the program, we need to take concrete steps to bring the program to life by laying the groundwork for the creation of a standing CPA committee. The OSC is not a statutory member of this committee, and must be voted in by Town Meeting when the committee is formed. We need to begin to lobby for a seat on the committee.

**Annual Report:** In preparation for the May Town Meeting Annual Report, members are asked to submit suggestions to Larry who will draft a version for committee review next month.

**Committee Reports—**

- Recreation Committee: Norm reported that pickleball and basketball remain very popular. The senior indoor Cowell walking sessions are held M,W,Fri mornings for one hour. In-town ice skating is iffy depending on the weather.
- Agricultural Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission: no members reporting

**Adjournment:** Moved by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe and accepted by unanimous vote.  
Meeting adjourned 7:52pm

**Next meeting** February 27, 2023 7:00pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,  
David Schochet, Co-chair