

## **Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 2/27/23    *Approved 3/27/23***

**Members Present via Zoom:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Norm recorded the meeting on Zoom

**Minutes from the 1/23/23 OSC meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously** after a couple of minor amendments. **Motion to accept 1/23/23 minutes** made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe.

### **OSRP Update:**

**Andrea Donlon from FRCOG** brought the group up to date on the **community survey** taken for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Larry asked if we needed to have a public meeting to review the survey results and get public comment. Andrea thought a community meeting would be useful when a draft OSRP and maps are completed. She will look at the DCR Handbook to see if a public *meeting* or a public *hearing* is called for.

Andrea said FRCOG has been continuing to work on the OSRP update and **is ready to finish drafts of chapters 3 and 4 and to begin on chapter 5**. She will have sections for us to review in months to come.

Larry said **our 2023 Woodlands Partnership of Northwestern Mass grant** of \$7k for the OSRP expires on 6/30/23 which means **the work under this grant will have to be completed by late May** to allow time for receipts to be submitted to the state. Larry said we would need to have an invoice to approve at the May meeting. Norm pointed out the Recreation Committee is meeting early in June and they could sign off on invoices then. **Larry explained the three funding pieces that will be used to pay for the OSRP update** -2022 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), the WPNM grant and the 2023 DLTA funding (still to be awarded).

Andrea reported that **over 200 community surveys have been returned. She will give a summary of the survey** results and discuss Chapter 3 of the new OSRP at our meeting in March. Larry asked Andrea what we should be accomplishing over the next few months. She said the survey and section 3 in March, section 4 in April and section 5 in May. Larry asked **about the 8th map** that must be completed for the Plan update: **Andrea said** it is the action plan plotted in map form, commonly called a "story map": she will ask Kimberly if it is required that we create one for the Plan.

### **Hiking Info Update**

Jim noted that he led four hikes last year and that **this year's first hike will meet at 9 AM on Saturday May 20th at the Arms Library and go to the High Ledges to view lady slippers**. Jim reported he attended the Mohican Mohawk Trail partnership meeting but there was nothing major to tell us about. Jim wondered if the town would be open to applying for a grant to be used by the Deerfield River Watershed group to move the trails' location near the railroad tracks by the river at Bardwell's Ferry. **General consensus was the OSC supports Jim in his efforts to receive funding for the project by way of the Town of Shelburne.**

### **Community Preservation Act next steps:**

Larry sent out a draft of a proposed bylaw prepared by Will Flanders to establish the Town's CPA Committee. Jim sent in a few notes to consider and Carolyn Wheeler wrote in to ask that a rep from the Ag Committee be added as a member. Larry urges that the OSC have a seat on the CPA Committee

as well. Jim wondered if the new committee could be structured so members who are repeatedly absent could be removed. Larry will send some more thoughts concerning the formulations of the CPA committee to Will Flanders.

#### **Town Newsletter Topics for April:**

Larry suggested promoting the May "Lady Slipper Walk" in the April newsletter. Laurie said she would start on something about the different architectural styles of the houses in the village. She said she had begun working with Jim and Joan last year about a guided walk in the village, and we have the village tree walk/historical buildings brochure. Laurie will discuss options with Peggy. Laurie thought we might find knowledgeable people on the Facebook page 'Shelburne Then and Now'. David said he's had contact with someone who lives in Buckland who works on historic preservation for the State and he will try to track him down. **Jim will keep a list of potential newsletter topics.** Laurie asked if the OSC has a Facebook presence: currently, we do not. Norm said the Rec Committee does have a Facebook page and he would be glad to post upcoming hikes, etc.

#### **Annual Report:**

Larry sent us a draft Annual Report and anyone who has comments should contact him as he still needs to gather a few figures regarding our accounts. He will then submit the report and post it on the Website. Due date for the Town Reports is March 23.

#### **New Business - none**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Norm reported for the Rec Committee** pickleball is really taking off and they've collected around \$2400 in user fees mostly from pickleball and basketball. They are hoping to start softball. Norm also reported the Recreation Committee is working on how to best utilize the Woodland Partnership of Northwestern Massachusetts \$13,000 grant for the ball field and ice rink which needs to be expended by 6/30/23. He noted they have a lack of volunteers so they might stay with the rink on Stephan Topolski's property.

**John reported for the Planning Board Public hearing on March 21.** Two proposals for Town Meeting: One about a change for the size of signs in Village Residential and one about tax-delinquent Town-owned property and how they might be used for affordable housing. He said Will Flanders and Tricia Yacevone-Biagi are working on municipal vulnerability planning grants.

-Ag Com and Cons Com reps not present

-No correspondence

-No visitor or guest comments

#### **Announcements**

Larry reminded us about the Open Space webinars available from the state, including the Biomap2

**Next meeting Monday March 27th by Zoom** Larry said the legislature will be deciding if we will be allowed to continue to meet via Zoom after March.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry  
Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem