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Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 3/27/23

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Garth LaPointe, Norm Beebe, Laurie Wheeler, Jim Perry, John Wheeler, and Joel Dwight

Guests: Nina Talayco and Joan LaPierre of Shelburne. Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

Larry called the meeting to order 7:04 PM Joel appointed Secretary ProTem. Meeting is being recorded on Zoom.

Minutes of February 27th, 2023 reviewed and accepted unanimously with two minor corrections. Motion to accept by Jim Perry, seconded by Laurie Wheeler.

New Candidates for Committee membership---

Larry introduced **Joan LaPierre** as a candidate for membership in the Open Space Committee. She said she is a 40 year resident of Shelburne and has concern for water and natural resources, and would like to help facilitate good stewardship and help others to enjoy the natural world. **Norm Beebe made a motion to nominate Joan**, seconded by Jim Perry. **Unanimous vote to recommend Joan to the Selectboard for their approval.**

Larry then introduced **Nina Talayco** Nina is a seven year resident of Shelburne Falls with a degree in Fisheries and Rivers and would like to give back by volunteering. She brings experience studying trout and salmon habitat in wilderness areas and has worked in water management in Washington State. She is now an occupation therapist and enjoys white water canoeing. She has been active with Trout Unlimited in the last few years. David asked if Nina or Joan had used any of the Shelburne trails--Nina has used the Fire Tower Trail and been to the High Ledges. Joan has hiked most of the trails but hasn't been on the Wooded Loop yet. Motion to nominate Nina made by Jim Perry seconded by Laurie Wheeler. **Unanimous vote to send recommendation on to the Select Board.**

Andrea Donlon from FRCOG joined the meeting to talk about the OSRP and the survey.

We discussed the survey results first. 252 completed surveys represent about 17% of Shelburne's population. Andrea explained how the information from the survey is presented and asked for any comments and suggestions as she went through the survey from beginning to end. Overall the group **felt positive about Andrea's much appreciated efforts**, identifying some minor tweaks (mainly in color and number presentation on graphs).

Committee members were reminded to read through the Section Three draft and send Andrea any comments, preferably in the next two weeks. Additional sections will keep coming to us for review as they are ready. Andrea suggested we could split up reviewing the sections among members if everyone didn't want to go through the entire document. The Committee officially thanked Andrea for her work and accomplishments.

- Community Preservation Act next steps

Larry shared an update of the draft warrant article for the establishment of the CPA Committee which will be voted on at Town Meeting. John Wheeler said he hasn't heard from Will Flanders but has questions about the part about how members would be added.

- Trails Update

Jim is leading a Lady Slipper Walk on May 20th. Peggy is considering leading some walks around town focusing on bird and tree identification..

Jim said that maybe a Red Loop Trail may be added to the Wooded Loop Trail system. He said the Tower Trail has an overlook of Shelburne Falls from the transmission line right of way without going all the way to the Fire Tower. Jim spoke with the land owner who is receptive to the idea and he may include

that within the Tower Trail network. The April 1stTown newsletter article will be all about ticks, including access to a tick study being done at UMass.

- New Business

There is a Gardner Falls recreation plan by CRA which includes recreation development on the Shelburne side and involving mitigation to counter the reduced access to the river. A meeting will be held to explore all of the impacts of expanded recreation. Jim has agreed to represent the OSC and Larry will suggest to the Select Board that he represent the town as well. **Motion for Larry to recommend Jim to the Select Board made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Garth LaPointe, and passed unanimously. Comments are due back to the power company by April 17th.**

Norm will send a copy of Jim's comments to all of the OSC members. Jim, Garth, and Norm are planning on exploring the area being proposed by the power company for recreational opportunities to get a better sense of the scope of the project.

- Committee Reports

John Wheeler reported for the Planning Board, which held a public hearing last week on two proposed warrant articles. Next year they are going to be looking at short term rentals. **Congressman McGovern will be at the Town Hall on April, 6th and it might be useful for some of us to attend to emphasize Open Space and agricultural land conservation.**

Next week there will be a public hearing on April, 4th concerning a common driveway on Old Greenfield Road.

Norm reported on activities for the Recreation Committee. Pickleball remains very popular and has brought in over \$5,000 in fees which will help for working on chalking of outdoor courts for outdoor pickleball. There is still a plan for putting up the pickleball backboard.

They are looking to acquire **a ping pong table...**

Softball did not get enough response to run this year.

Ice skating will most likely stay at Stephan Topolski's.

Ag Commission and Conservation Commission representatives not present.

No correspondence.

No visitor or guest comments.

Larry explained the need to meet Congressman McGovern and to talk about the burden of the seven year requirement to update the OSRP by small towns.

Next meeting April, 24th by Zoom. Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry.
Meeting adjourned 9:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Dwight
Secretary Pro Tem