

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 4/24/23 *approved 5/30/23*

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. The meeting was held on Zoom and recorded. Joel appointed secretary pro tem

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Laurie Wheeler, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Garth LaPointe, and Joel Dwight
Peggy Warwick will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Guests: Andrea Donlon, FRCOG

OSC minutes of 3/27/23 minutes reviewed and accepted unanimously as presented. Motion made by Norm Beebe seconded by Joan LaPierre.

Larry welcomed two new members Nina Talayco and Joan LaPierre who have been appointed to the committee by the Selectboard.

Ongoing Business

Open Space and Recreation Plan Revisions

Andrea Donlon from FRCOG is working on edits from Section 3 and has sent out Section 4 for review. Larry asked if the survey was ready to post on the town website. Andrea said if we were happy with it we could post it. Andrea will send the survey results out to all of us again so we'll hold off on posting it until we all review it.

Nina thought there should be more content concerning Indigenous Peoples use of the land before the European settlement. Larry will refer Andrea to the Woodlands Partnership agent who has contacts with Indigenous Peoples representatives. Andrea will look into it. Nina will see if the Historical Society has any information.

Section 4 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Andrea sent out a Section 4 draft and suggested we consider what parts are most useful to us. Members will review and circulate suggested changes. The next draft will be Section 5 on protected lands. Andrea then shared some draft maps on screen, showing plant and wildlife habitat and water resources. She will send the maps to us to review.

Everyone thanked Andrea for her work. She will have the invoice for approval at our next meeting and then send it on to the Selectboard. She will get the second invoice in before the next meeting. Larry asked if we could have one invoice for \$7,000 covering work completed under the Woodland Partnership grant to approve at the next meeting. She will speak with Kimberley to see if it can all be placed on one invoice.

Community Preservation Act

On the agenda at town meeting will be approval of the committee that will manage the CPA program. Open Space will have a seat on the committee if it passes town meeting (Tuesday May 2nd at the elementary school). Also on the TM agenda are bylaw changes proposed by the Planning Board.

Gardner Falls Recreation Management Plan

Jim was appointed by the Selectboard to represent the Town in discussions about the proposed changes to the Gardner Falls Recreation Management Plan. Jim reported that each company that takes over the power plant wants to downsize their commitment. They did not consult with local towns about changes and they are looking to submit a plan to FERC. Jim will respond with comments asking for changes prior to the FERC submission.

Trail Status Updates

Jim will be leading a lady slipper hike Sunday May 21st at 9 am meeting at the Arms Library. There will also be a hike up to the Shelburne Falls Water Reservoir in Colrain May 20th. Peggy Warwick will host two bird meetings/walks, one on May 29th at the Senior Center which will be a talk about local birds and one on May 5th which will be a bird walk around the village.

Tower Trail Vandalism

Jim said we have experienced a bit of vandalism on the Tower Trail -- snapping off golf tees that hold ID signs on trees, spinning around our invasives sign, and another sign knocked over and bent. Jim put in a new post and straightened the bent one which Joel volunteered to weld. Jim also needs pressure treated material for a bridge, sign points, and post material. He's working with National Grid to get a permit to cross their line easement with our trails. The Selectboard will probably have to sign off on it. Norm will see if the Rec Comm can spare some of the ballfield money to buy signage supplies.

River Trail

Norm discussed access to the Town property (former Lillian Davenport lot) from Deerfield Avenue over (former) Mill Road. He followed up with John and Bill Lawless who own the Mahew Steel Property adjacent to Deerfield Ave. about conducting a survey of the former Mill Road layout. Bill initially said it was okay to cross their property but then wanted Norm to speak with the other four owners of land adjacent to Mill Road which would potentially be crossed by the trail route. Norm spoke with all of them and they all support doing a survey. Norm proposes we schedule a survey to clarify the Mill Road layout. He will also discuss trail status with the Selectboard.

Motion made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe to engage a survey company to clarify the Mill Road layout and required easements over private property. Unanimous vote approved to engage a surveyor as soon as possible.

Wooded Loop Trails

David asked what was needed at the Wooded Loop Trails. Jim said we had decided to do a new red loop trail last year. Jim will put together a list of materials needed and a cost. Once we have materials, we will put together a work day.

Town Newsletter

The lady slipper trail hike article is pending for the newsletter. The June entry for the newsletter could be about Gardner Falls Recreation Plan. Laurie will look into a newsletter contribution for June.

New Business - none

Committee Reports

- Ag Committee - no representative present.
- Conservation Commission - no representative present.
- Planning Board - no representative present.
- Recreation Committee - Norm reported pickleball is moving outside and the backboard will be installed soon. Senior walk over the winter was held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Cowell Gym. They are putting up a no dog sign on the Cowell courts.

Correspondence

Received a memo from Lara Radysh asking for any correspondence, calls, letters or private meetings concerning the River Trail. Larry responded that there were none and all meetings were posted. Meetings are recorded on Zoom and sent to her at her request. Lara also emailed Norm to see if there was anything going on with the River Trail at the Rec Committee and Norm reported he had been in contact with the abutting land owners concerning access to the trail.

Visitor and Guest Comments - None

Next meeting Monday, May 22nd by Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem