

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting May 30, 2023 **Approved 6/26/23**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting is being recorded on Zoom by Laurie Wheeler. Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem

Members present - Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Jim Perry, Garth Lapointe, Joel Dwight, Peggy Warwick

Guests - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG, Lara Radysh Shelburne Resident

Requests for any additions to the posted agenda - There were none

Minutes April 24, 2023 Review of the April meeting minutes – no additions or corrections.

Jim Perry moved to accept the minutes as presented. Joan Lapierre seconded.

Approved by unanimous vote.

Mill Road Survey

As a follow-up to the vote to proceed with a survey of Mill Road at the last meeting, Larry contacted 5 surveyors. Green River Surveyors came back with a quote of \$4900.00. Larry/Norm met with Selectboard who approved proceeding with the survey and also approved a meeting with Town Counsel regarding easements.

The surveyor will begin the work right away focusing on locating the centerline of Mill Road and outlining the potential easements required where the proposed trail might cross private property. Jim provided his deed research and will work with the surveyor to answer his questions on-site. Jim, Garth, and Norm will clear a path for the surveyor.

This work will be paid with funds from the 2021 Woodland Partnership Grant. There has been a verbal approval for an extension of the grant until June 30, 2024. Motion to request the grant extension of \$14,000 to 6/30/24 made by Laurie Wheeler, seconded by Jim Perry, approved by unanimous vote.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Andrea Donlon from FRCOG addressed the meeting concerning her work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. She has received some Section 4 edits from Jim and Larry will be sending in a few as well. Andrea worked on Section 5 over the past month which shows protected properties.

FRCOG's work under Woodland Partnership Grant money has been completed and an invoice has been sent to the town. DLTA will cover the rest of her work for 2023. The first portion of the work was covered by money from 2021 DLTA. The second was the Woodland Partnership and the third is \$7000.00 from the 2023 DLTA.

Andrea will also be working on Sections 6,7,8, and 9 over the summer. Once there is a draft of the plan, we can have a community meeting in the fall. Andrea will be on vacation at the time of our August meeting. She got parcel information from the Shelburne Assessors Office and information from the State GIS database concerning conservation restrictions and APRs. There was a question raised about including names of property owners and privacy issues. Andrea will check on requirements and how other towns handle it. We should let her know if we are aware of any property transfers that she may not know about. Andrea said 44% of Shelburne land is in some type of permanent conservation restriction. She discussed other protected lands and programs. She would appreciate feedback as we review the information. Larry wondered how we will review the maps. Andrea said they will need a bit of reworking before she shares them with us but they could be available as soon as next month.

Motion to approve paying FRCOG \$6,975.13 for the work done so far and submit invoices to the state for reimbursement made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Nina Talayco. Approved by unanimous vote.

Motion made by Laurie Wheeler and seconded by Jim Perry to authorize Larry to request extension of \$13,024.87 of the 2023 Woodland Grant to 6/30/24 that will be used for ball fields. Approved by unanimous vote.

Community Preservation Act

The CPA was authorized at the Town Meeting. We need to have a member of the OSC to serve on the CPA Committee for 1 year. We have 60 days after the Attorney General has approved our CPA to present a candidate for the post. We need to be thinking about that for our next monthly meeting.

Gardner Falls Recreation Falls Update

Jim has been contacted by the Hydro Company which now owns the Gardner Falls generating facility as recently as May 8th and they are setting up a meeting to discuss the proposed recreation plan. Jim had sent them a reminder to set a meeting date.

Trail Status

Jim reports the M&M Trail and the Red Loop Trail will need some minor foot bridge work. The cost of materials and signage needed for the work will be a little over \$1200.00 dollars. Larry thought we should wait on material purchases until we get approval from the state on the grant extension. We are still waiting for approval to use the Power Company transmission line right of way to the east of the Village as a Shelburne Falls overlook. Jim has done some brush removal on several trails. Garth has been mowing at the Wooded Loop Trail and will let Jim know if there is a need for more trail brochures there.

Lady Slipper Hike and Bird Walks

The Lady Slipper Hike was attended by 14 people. The next hike will be June 10th consisting of two different loops around the Shelburne Falls Village. Attendees can choose which loop they would like to go on depending upon how strenuous a hike they want to go on. Peggy reported the Bird Walk in mid-May in conjunction with the Senior Center had 6 participants. The proposed bird walk at the Arms Cemetery had several people sign up but no one showed up.

Town Newsletter

Jim suggested we might include some of the topics we review at our meetings such as the town survey for the OSRP, the summary from Andrea has key items that could be shared, we could also include a link to the survey that could be posted on the Town website. Larry will look at Andrea's summary with that in mind. Joan will follow up with Andrea to see if there is a final copy of the survey which Larry will post on the Website.

New Business

Jim and Joel are up for renewal as committee members for another 3 years. Motion made by Joan Lapierre and seconded by Nina Talayco to recommend to the Selectboard for both of them for new 3-year appointments. Passed unanimously. Larry thanked them for their service and will write to Selectboard.

Committee Reports

No Committee Liaisons were present to give reports.

Correspondence

None

Guest Comments

Lara Radysh joined the meeting for the second hour. She had planned to be present for the discussion about the Mill Rd survey. Larry let her know that this topic was bumped up to the first item on the agenda, as the first guest, the FRCOG rep, had not yet arrived. Lara asked what was covered concerning the Mill Rd survey. Larry said we have engaged a surveyor to locate Mill Rd and to lay out the necessary easements. Jim added that there are plans in place to brush out the trail prior to the survey. Lara asked about discussions with the lawyer. Larry responded that there has been a meeting with the lawyer and that the details of that conversation are privileged. Lara asked to be informed in the next meeting about

any conversations that can be shared. An exchange followed between Lara and Larry about the landowners concerned, and the granting of permission to access property to survey. Larry stated that it is now the surveyor's role to obtain permission to access the properties, and that affected property owners would receive a 2 week notice. Lara said that, as far as she knows, Lawless has not given permission. Norm was not present tonight, and he is the committee member who has been in contact with landowners. Lara stated what seems to her to be unclear communication between the OSC and herself and the other landowners in the Mill Rd. area. Laurie Wheeler said she would send the recording of this meeting to Lara.

Other Notes

Laurie asked about maps - Larry said all the full-sized original maps are in the Town Office meeting room and the maps from the last ORSP are online.

Garth asked if we could meet in person at those times when we have to look at maps. Larry confirmed that we will continue to meet via Zoom, but meet in person when it comes time to review the maps.

Our next meeting will be June 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Laurie Wheeler. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Dwight