

Town of Shelburne
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 7/24/23
approved 8/28/23

Meeting called to order by Larry Flaccus at 7:07 pm.
Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem
Norm recording the meeting on Zoom

Members present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Peggy Warwick, Joel Dwight

- Laurie Wheeler and Joan Lapierre sent notice they were not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Guests: Ted Sicker, Lara Radysh, Andrea Donlon

No new agenda items to add

Minutes: June 26,2023 meeting minutes reviewed. Motion made to accept as presented by Norm Beebe. Seconded by Jim Perry. Unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Gardner Falls Recreation Plan - Jim reports they are still waiting on the Hydro Company to rewrite their proposed recreation plan. The road to Wilcox Hollow is washed out and the Hydro Company and the Electric Company have been notified. Norm noted many cars at the trailhead on Rt 2 parked to gain access to Wilcox Hollow.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Andrea from FRCOG updated status of the OSRP –

- Section 3: Andrea received suggestions for Section 3 and incorporated these and forwarded it to John Wheeler (Planning Board) to look at zoning related items. Edits to section 3 are done except for Planning Board inputs.
- Section 4 should be in final draft soon. Members should send any additional edits in to Andrea.
- Section 5: Andrea asked if the tow- owned property table could be looked at by the members to see if there are any corrections.
- Drafts of sections 6 and 7 were sent to members last week and we can go over them during this meeting.
- Section 8 will be sent out before the next meeting.
- Andrea will be on vacation during the August meeting. Andrea suggested making a draft action plan before the public meeting to give more information for people to react to. She also suggested deleting items on the old action plan we probably wouldn't do in the next 7 years.
- Maps: Andrea said FRCOG is coming up with a more uniform way to format the maps so they would be the more standardized from town to town. Larry proposed

an in-person meeting in September to review the maps. Will select the date for that at our August meeting.

- Next steps: In Sep or early Oct will go over maps, major goals, survey information and get feedback from the public. Andrea said there will be a final draft OSRP by then and it might be best to have the meeting in early Oct. This would allow us to review public comments at our Oct meeting. Andrea will need 2 to 3 weeks to work on the public meeting suggestions to have a draft ORSP.
- The OSRP needs to be completed by the end of December.
- Sections 4 and 5 edits should be sent in to her by the middle of August.
- Sections 6 and 7 edits should be sent into her by the end of August. She will incorporate Jim and Nina's edits into section 5 and then send them out to all members for review. Andrea will be reviewing the action plan and Larry has sent his revisions and all members should review that. At this point Andrea had completed her portion of the meeting and left.

Trail Updates - Jim said rain has prevented much maintenance from being done on the trails. He did spend some time maintaining water bars on the Tower trails. Jim has not heard from the surveyor about the Mill Road survey. Larry will email the surveyor for an update.

Hikes - Peggy is planning a hike focused on late blooming wild flowers and their pollinators in late Sept. at High Ledges. Jim spoke with Cynthia Boettner about a 2024 hike focused on invasive weeds. The best spot for that is probably behind Mohawk High School. Cynthia is figuring what month might be best for that hike and will get back to Jim.

September Newsletter - An article by Peggy and Jim has been submitted for the August newsletter. They are looking for more ideas for the Sept and future newsletter articles.

Woodland Partnership Grant - Larry spoke with folks from the Bridge of Flowers and also the Fire Department about their ability to access this grant. Neither group could act quickly enough so no grant applications were filed.

New Business - None

Committee Reports –

- Recreation Committee: Norm reported for the Recreation Committee and 8 x 16 backboard is being installed outside the Cowell Gym and the town crew is going to help put it in.
- Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Agricultural Commission - no reports as no representatives were present.

Correspondence

The New England Forestry Federation owns the Wells Forest on Barnard Rd. They are currently logging the parcel, and existing trails have been damaged. At the request of

Ted Sticker, Larry contacted Lisa Hayden at NEFF and suggested they contact Ted and Ron about trail maintenance. Ted got a response that there were no official trails on the property so they may have been made without permission of the NEFF. There are 57 acres of forestry land there. NEFF is a non profit so they pay no taxes. They also appear not to want to have community contact. There are signs on the property that say Wells Forest and that respectful visits are encouraged. Ted thinks it could be a good addition to the Shelburne trail system because the property extends down to the Mohican Mohawk trail. No further action was taken.

Visitor and Guest comments - Lara Radysh wished to correct comments made at the last meeting regarding swimming in the river from their property. While they did at one time access the river with their child, she wanted to make it clear that she and Bob Higgins do not use the Lillian Davenport property as their private swimming area.

Next meeting: August 28, 2023 by Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting Adjourned - 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Dwight