

Town of Shelburne

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 8/28/23 (approved 9/25/23)

Meeting called to order by Larry Flaccus at 7:02 pm.

The Meeting is being recorded on Zoom.

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

Members present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Peggy Warwick, Joan LaPierre, Nina Talayco, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight.

Guests: Lara Radysh, Rick LaPierre

No new agenda items to add.

Minutes: 7/24/23 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously as presented. Motion to accept made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Norm Beebe.

Old Business

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Andrea could not meet with us tonight but reported the following:

- She has received suggestions on section 3 from the Planning Board.
- She is still accepting final edits for sections 4 and 5.
- Drafts of sections 6, 7 and 8 have been sent out to the OSC members.
- Our next step is to schedule a public meeting in October. Final draft maps and final draft action plan should be ready by then.

Larry suggested we have an in-person meeting sometime in the first two weeks of Oct so we can look over the maps. We could get together at 6:30 and have the public meeting at 7:30. Larry suggested we meet in the Town Hall because the old maps are there in case we need to refer to them. The group settled on Tues Oct 10 at 6:30 pm. Larry will check with Terry to see if the room is available. Norm suggested an alternative location might be Fellowship Hall, if necessary. Larry encouraged everyone to get their edits in to Andrea as soon as possible.

Woodland Partnership Riparian Planting Project at BSE - Norm said the Selectboard had signed off on the plan contingent upon approval by the School Committee.

Gardner Falls Recreation Plan - Jim reports the plan deadline has been missed by Patriot Hydro and he expects to see an extension. He also reports the road to Wilcox Hollow is closed due to erosion damage. Patriot Hydro, Eversource, and the DCR all share responsibility for maintenance of the road. Allen Harris is interested in getting the companies to do a proper job of doing the road repair and Jim said he would welcome the opportunity to have him become involved.

Trail Status Updates - Jim reports there has not been much action taken on the trails other than occasional maintenance. He also needs to get up and check the Ridge Trail.

Walks - Peggy is planning a Late Blooming Wildflower hike for Sept 10 at 9 am at High Ledges. Park at the first parking lot. Jim said the Deerfield River Watershed Assoc had reached out to a list of past hikers about the wild flower hike.

Publication of Activities - Jim reports the town newsletter is now defunct and is looking for a volunteer. Rick said they are looking for a new Editor for the newsletter and it is difficult to find anyone due to the time commitment involved. Larry wondered how we might work with local Facebook groups, such as Shelburne Falls in a Nutshell, in the future now that the newsletter is gone. Norm will work at getting information on the Recreation Committee Facebook page.

Mill Road Survey - Larry talked with our surveyor about progress on Mill Rd and he suggested waiting until the leaves had fallen to make it easier, so he will attempt to get it done before winter. The 2021 Woodland Partnership Grant is paying for the survey with the balance being used on invasives control.

CPA Committee – Town is still waiting for approval of the Bylaw by the Secretary of State's Office. Selectboard is looking for two more members. Nominations and applications can be made to the Selectboard.

Brush Over River View - Jim reported he and his wife received Selectboard approval to trim brush from the river viewpoint across from the end of Mechanic St. The Town crew usually does some trimming there but don't have time due to all the road damage done by the wet weather. Joel asked if woodchips could be blown down from the top to knock down and smother what was growing there. Jim said the plants were too substantial for that to work. Larry wondered if we might find a contractor to handle the job. Joel suggested Woody Lanoue of Lanoue Tree Service. Jim will contact Woody for options and prices. Peggy suggested Carl's Four Season Landscaping. Larry thinks we probably have about \$5000 left from the grant to pay for brush control at the viewpoint.

Committee Reports –

- Recreation Committee - Norm reports Bill Buck is stepping down as the Cowell Facility Director. This position comes with a stipend and they are looking for someone to take over. He reports they are still working on a backboard and they are looking into tennis court maintenance. Larry wondered how tennis players schedule time on the courts when they are not being used for pickle ball. Norm is hoping to get in two more pickle ball courts and is hoping to get in a barrier to separate tennis and pickle ball.
- Conservation Commission, Agricultural Committee, and Planning Board. No liaisons present.

Correspondence - none

Visitor/Guest's Comments –

Lara expressed a concern over using chemical options as a way of clearing the brush from the overview at the end of Mechanic St.

Rick says he isn't aware of anyone having the Meeting Room in the Town Hall booked for Oct 10th. So he suggested getting a hold of Terry as soon as possible to reserve it.

Next meeting: September 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight
Secretary Pro Tem