

Shelburne Open Space Committee Minutes February 22, 2016

Meeting called to order 7:07 pm

Members present: Cynthia Boettner, Linda Herrera, David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Joel Dwight

Joel appointed Secretary pro tem

Minutes of Jan 25,2016 reviewed - 2 amendments made and accepted

Larry told us we received a \$1000 donation to the Open Space account and he sent a letter of appreciation to the donor. We now have \$18,094.00 in that account.

David then distributed copies of explanation of all of the accounts of which we are associated with. the list was prepared by Larry.

Norm had a few questions for Larry about setting up accounts and control of expenditures because the Rec Committee is looking into setting up a fund that could accept donations.

David then focused us on new business.

The Pipeline Advisory Committee was looking into a method for people to contribute to a fund to be used to oppose the pipeline. Terry told David the Selectboard could make this happen. There had been a question about using one of our accounts to hold such funds but Larry explained that such an arrangement is not permissible.

Cynthia wondered if we should close out the APR match account. Larry made a case that it was still valuable in accepting a matching amount as a line item in the yearly town budget and further could be used to accept funds should an opportunity arise for a town meeting vote to acquire an APR property which might come available. The group decided to leave the funding structure as it is.

David then told us Jim Perry is out of commission for an extended period of time and wondered how that will affect his participation on the committee. David will send Jim a card and we all agree he should stay on board.

We have not yet found any candidates for OSC membership.

Ongoing Business

Village Tree Survey - Linda reported Mary Prouse is searching for funding to identify the village trees. Larry told us Joan Greenfield had suggested labeling the downtown trees. Larry further said Joan had said she might be willing to work on the tree identification project. Linda will talk with the Tree Warden about the project. Cynthia said Sue Reed, Brock Cutting, and Kevin Parsons had been active in assessing the village trees. Larry thought we might present the idea of a Tree Committee to the Selectmen. David will let the group know what we have available for tree signs. He also thought we should approach the Shelburne Falls Business Association about the map descriptions and the tree id project. David will speak with the SFBA. Cynthia thought the Woman's Club might have an interest since they take care of the

Bridge of Flowers. Cynthia suggested this might become a Boy Scout Eagle project. David will speak with our Scout contacts.

A Village Walking Map has been created. One dozen of these have been sent to the OSC. David showed the laminated copies to us. The group thought a descriptive sheet should go along with the map to inform people the significance of the various buildings on the map.

David told us about a visioning meeting for the Falls that had taken place recently and wondered if any of us had attended. No one had.

David filled us in on Scott Jackson who suggested waiting on the culvert survey report because there will be more information available later in the summer.

No update was available on the Pipeline Advisory Committee. John thought the Pipeline Advisory Committee would be requesting money at the Town Meeting.

Norm reported the Rec Committee met with the Selectboard to look into writing a grant to pay for 70% of the cost of paving the tennis/skating area and a playground by the Historical Society Building. The difficulty is the available grants would need the cost to be covered upfront and then the grant would be used to reimburse those payments. The Selectboard is interested in assisting with this.

John reported the Planning Board is having a public hearing on Wednesday Feb 24, 2016 about the Subdivision Bylaw and the Open Space Development Bylaw. The Ag Commission sent notice of this meeting to some large landowners by email. The Planning Board has gotten comments from the open Space Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, John Payne, and others.

Larry told the group about the Colrain Shelburne Rd/Route 2 improvement and discussion followed on the amount of money that was going to be spent.

David then directed us to look at the draft of our Annual Report for the Town Meeting. Cynthia suggested Larry modify the statement to show there was input by town residents. The group voted to authorize Larry to modify the Report as discussed and forward it on to the Selectboard.

Meeting Adjourned 8:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight