

## Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2016

David called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Members present Cynthia Boettner, David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Tom Miner, John Wheeler, Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

Joel appointed Secretary pro tem

The meeting began with the question "Is there anything on the Town Meeting Warrant that will be of direct interest to us on OSC? Tom reported there would be a question as to degree of opposition to the pipeline. There will also be a question to authorize \$13,000.00 to be allotted towards FRCOG's work on the pipeline issue.

Larry went to the Planning Board hearing on the Open Space Bylaw. The Subdivision Bylaw was voted in at the Planning Board meeting. The Open Space Development Bylaw has to be voted on at Town Meeting. Larry also reported on a Bylaw concerning large scale heavy truck traffic in regards to having to be permitted and have liability for road damage. We will have one more meeting before the Town Meeting which will give us an opportunity to comment on articles which are of interest to us.

Tom told us that Mass DOT has had a 25% meeting concerning the junction of Colrain Shelburne Road and Route 2.

David spoke about activity coming up around the pipeline project. There is a DPU meeting on the evening of March 29, 2016. There is also a court case in Pittsfield this coming Thursday involving the Connecticut pipeline going through the Otis State Forest. The ruling concerns Article 97 about two thirds of the state legislature having to vote to allow the crossing of state lands. If Article 97 is overturned it would remove protection for land involved in the pipeline coming near us. Larry wondered if a letter from OSC should be sent to Maura Healey supporting her work to prevent the crossing of protected lands. David then showed us a schedule of events concerning the proposed pipeline which he sent to us today. The group voted unanimously to send a letter to Maura Healey.

David wondered if the Rec Committee is presenting anything to Town Meeting. Norm told us he learned that the Cowl Gym has an account which they may be able to use on recreational resources.

Tom reported that the Conservation Commission has had several people desiring to build decks out over the river. One was from the VFW building which has been withdrawn.

The group then spoke about the village tree survey. David wondered if Linda had contacted Tree Warden Jim Richardson. He also showed us the leftover tree identification signs from the Loop Trail project. Tom had heard a presentation by Mary Prouse about a survey of trees in Greenfield and Turners Falls and he stated there was a tremendous amount of information generated. Tom also said there is

local assistance funding available from FRCOG for such things but the time for applying has passed. Tom thinks Mary Prouse will be a very knowledgeable person to be involved in a village tree project. John said he had heard from Mary that Linda had spoken with her regarding the village trees. Norm shared how the town had put trees back on Mechanic St after road work was done and how that wasn't done after the Main St roadwork. David will contact Linda and then we will contact Mary Prouse and the Selectmen to see if they have interest in appointing a Village Tree Committee.

No one knew if the Ag Commission had met.

John told us the Planning Board had the final draft of the Open Space Development Bylaw. He will send out a digital copy of it to everyone. Some of the material that was in text has been made more easily understandable by putting it in table form. They will also have a handout available at Town Meeting.

Cynthia then spoke to us about garlic mustard. Last year's Boy Scout effort didn't work out very well because of rain and poor turnout due to sports conflicts. Someone did go in and remove what they saw at High Ledges. Cynthia was open to ideas about getting folks together to battle garlic mustard. Norm suggested Girl Scouts might become involved. Larry wondered if any group at Franklin County Tech School might be interested in becoming involved in garlic mustard pulling.

Larry and Tom may attend the upcoming DPU meeting concerning pipeline work.

Cynthia also wondered if we should think about another invasive besides garlic mustard. David wondered if there was a survey identifying locations of invasive plants in town.

Norm told us the Mass in Motion people have decided on a bike lane to the top of North St.

Cynthia told us there is a trail up toward Crittenden Hill.

Norm said DOT is agreeable to extend a sidewalk beyond Mohawk on to the Buckland Recreation Area. The walk wouldn't be done until 2018 or 2019. Tom told us FRCOG has a transportation planning subcommittee with funds for spending on transportation. Look under transportation planning on the FRCOG website.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight - Secretary pro tem