

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Sept 25, 2017

Members Present: David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Linda Herrera, Arlene Patenaude, Jim Perry, Tom Johnson, Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

Guest: Alan Harris

David called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Larry introduced our guest Alan Harris

The minutes from August were reviewed and accepted with a few minor corrections

David told us the **November Trail Conference** is coming up. Jim is attending for 3 days. David will attend for 1 day.

David also spoke about the **Municipal Vulnerability Grant Program**. This involves grant money available to municipalities available for runoff and flood.

David introduced **Alan Harris** who has been dealing with **access to Wilcox Hollow**. Alan shared with us his pursuits with outdoor activities in the three years since he has been retired and how much he has been enjoying the Wilcox Hollow area. He spoke about many people enjoying it but it seems to never be over crowded. He further told us what bad shape the access road is in. He is trying to get the road fixed. It is a private road owned by the utility company and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Alan has spoken with DCR Western Director, Mark Anzoni, who directed him to Mark Jester, and also with the DCR who directed him to Rich Brazillo, with DCR from Amherst Ma. He has also spoken with DCR Regional Director Roger Sacco, who is supposed to get back to him.

Mark Jester informed Alan that Lane Construction has been awarded a contract to repair the section of road controlled by the DCR after they have finished a job they are doing in Hawley. Alan has also contacted State Representative Adam Hines office to see if they might be of any help. Arlene told us she has been there a lot in the past and at that time she spent a lot of time picking up trash. She feels the lack of road maintenance may be contributing to the area being cleaner now. David told us how he goes down there as well and he is always struck by the tidiness of the area.

The **consensus of the group** seemed to be that once it is established exactly what person and entity is identified as the responsible party for the road, we could then seriously consider sending a letter of support for Alan's efforts. Norm invited Alan to the Recreation Committee meeting on Mon Oct 2 to present to his committee as this is part of their area of interest. David will send him an email so Alan can keep him abreast of developments on the road repair.

Alan then left and David moved us on to discussion of the **Tree Walk Project**.

Larry brought in samples of Douglas Fir and White Fir because there has been much discussion about a tree on Severance St which we need to properly identify. David wondered if a Norway Maple should be included in the brochure as an example of an invasive species. Larry included Shagbark Hickory in the

brochure and there is a nice specimen on Harriet Payne's property. Larry also shared the brochure "A Village Walking Tour" which came out very well and to which he has added more information. Larry and David had been trying to contact **Ryan Cleary of FRCOG** to talk about the map portion of the brochure.

Larry told us on the corner of Church and Main St there is a large example of a Norway Maple. David asked for **comments on the revised brochure** and Norm suggested an address correction for the Norway Spruce in his yard. The group also established that the Shagbark Hickory on the Payne property is at 3 South Maple St. Jim suggested larger font size for the title of the brochure. David and Larry will find out if Ryan can pull up GPS coordinates to place the trees in the correct location on the map.

David thought it might be time to **talk with land owners about the trees**. Larry suggested identifying and approaching land owners about inclusion of the trees in the brochure. We can identify owners through the Assessor's office. Arlene will meet with the woman in the Assessor's Office to identify owners of brochure trees that are not on public land. The group then identified which trees they knew would be on private property and would require a visit with the property owner. After Arlene has done her work we will decide who we will speak with regarding privately owned trees to be included in the brochure.

David had information on the **Singley property** concerning the River Walk. He learned the property line is 100 feet from the sidewalk, the 100 feet being measured level out from the sidewalk. The group spoke more about the Deerfield Ave end of the trail access. The Singley property has been sold and the new owner needs to be contacted about the possibility about a trail. David will speak with Chris Singley to find out the identity of the new owner and learn more about him. Larry thought we should consider purchase of easements as part of the cost of the trail. Larry also explained to us we have about \$10,000 in the Open Space account.

Next on the agenda **Jim Perry and the M & M Trail Map progress**. Linda and Jim talked about the problems with access to Polly's bridge and Linda wanted to make sure everyone realized that access to the bridge was no good at this point.

We next heard from Tom representing the **Planning Board about the Housing Survey**. Linda encourages everyone to complete the survey before Mon Oct 1.

David then brought up the **state culvert project**: he found out the outreach portion of the project has begun and we will be scheduled for a presentation.

Norm will find out from Terry if the Selectmen will need to be notified about our Village Hiking brochure.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight, Secretary pro tem