

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting April 21, 2019

Members present - Larry Flaccus, John Wheeler, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, and Joel Dwight

Guests - Whit Sanford, Chris Meyers

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem

Minutes of 2/25/19 reviewed and approved

Jim went with Art Schwenger and Melissa from FRCOG and Josh Ryan from Timberstone to walk the proposed River Trail. They walked from Mayhew's Quonset hut across the steep slope below Bridge St to the Town owned property downstream, across the Jane Handford property all the way to the Land Trust Property. Josh suggested the steep part would need metal rods put into the ground to hold the path. That portion wouldn't be handicap accessible and would be like a suspended board walk. Josh said that portion was doable but expensive. He is coming back to look again when he has a price we will see if it is financially feasible. He will be able to go out there as are many of us as are able to make it. Jim also told us new maps for the Mohican Mohawk Trail are here and he has made them available at several locations, including the Visitor Center. Norm contacted John Lawless and he is agreeable to looking at accessibility to the Trail. His building may be across Deerfield Ave and that may necessitate the Trail going onto Bob Spencer's property. John thought Lawless' had been considering selling their property to the Town. Norm will talk with Terry about that. Larry told us that the Deerfield Ave parking lot is supposed to be resurfaced and a new sidewalk constructed.

Chris Meyers came to talk about the Shelburne Hazard Mitigation Plan and to think about what hazards we might be aware of and what we might do about them. Chris had talked with folks about the Davenport and it has been brought up to standard by Davenport Smith. Chris also was interested in working with Buckland and the High School to make the school into a shelter in case of disaster. He told us the state just finished a Hazard Mitigation Plan and they had emphasized more about the effects of climate change. Chris wondered what might be Hazard Mitigation in terms of agriculture and open space. Jim shared with him the run off problems from Joe Rae's Sweetheart Restaurant property. Whit Sandford told us the food plan line had been measured up the bank. Jim said the Sweetheart project seems to be on hold. Jim also told us the washouts pose a problem because they will make the Mohican Mohawk Trail extension more expensive to construct. Chris told us the Water Dept has done a lot to protect the Town Well in Colrain and another Agency has a project proposal for that area. Great River Hydro now owns the dams on the Deerfield River and there is some concern that they don't have much contact with the local community. Also the Shelter (Mohawk School) is in the flood plain so they may have to find a secondary building. Maybe if they build a Senior Center by Arms Academy

that might be useful. The Cowell Gym could be useful but would need a lot of upgrading particularly the electrical system. Joe Palmeri looked to see if a transfer switch could be installed but a good deal of expensive work would need to be done. A Mitigation Plan Meeting is upcoming at Town Hall. Jim expressed his concern about the dams and how they were built prior to existing standards. He is also concerned about our area going into a dry weather phase and how that will relate to the possibility of forest fires in our area.

Jim and his daughter cleaned branches out of the Wooded Loop Trail and the trail has been smoothed out and the gates are open. A few ATVs have been using the trail. Larry reminded us we want to get together with John Payne's daughter about a connecting trail over to Summit Ave. Jim also pointed out that a trail could be established with the use of a bulldozer to return to the parking area without walking in the town road. He also told us tree signs need to be put back in and he put up a sign to avoid confusion where the trails join and also noted the blazes need refreshing, which could be done on a work day. Larry will talk with John Payne's daughter.

Larry spoke about Committee membership vacancies and the need for more members. Norm will speak with Faith Williams. Also Joel, David, and Norm need to update their Conflict of Interest certification.

Larry got the Selectboard to approve Shelburne's participation in the Woodland Partnership. Out of the 21 potential members 11 have to sign on to activate the organization and be able to go after grant money.

There is an Ag Commission meeting Tuesday May 14, 2019 at the Center Fire Station. John said they may have a Franklin County wide Ag Commission meeting May 19, 2019 at Apex Orchard.

John told us there are 9 articles on the warrant for Town Meeting. John reviewed the articles for us and also told us Josiah Simpson is moving and leaving the Planning Board.

Norm told us they are trying to get Ping Pong started at Cowell Gym and they are gaining a new member on the Recreation Committee and losing an old member.

Next meeting on June 3, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.