

Shelburne Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2019
Shelburne Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chairman David Schochet. Other members of the committee in attendance were Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, Larry Flaccus, Joanie Greenfield, Joel Dwight, and Tom Johnson.

Guests: Cynthia Boettner, Garth LaPointe

Minutes of the September 23rd meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of 6-0-1.

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the **Mohawk Trail Extension**. David Schochet updated members on recent discussions with Jane Hanford, regarding a revocable agreement of access to her property. David discussed with Melissa about the need for a letter to be sent to Ms. Hanford from the Franklin Land Trust, which would clarify issues such as the width of a buffer zone, and the choice between a revocable/voluntary agreement and a permanent easement. David and Melissa had discussed bringing the trail up the slope by the Sweet Heart property as an outlet on the edge of town. He proposed a walk-through from the Rte. 2 parking area for the present Mohawk Trail, along the flagged proposed route for the new trail extension, to the Sweet Heart, scheduled for the afternoon of November 14th. **Action:** 1. David will confer with Melissa regarding what will go into the letter. 2. Walk scheduled for 1 p.m. on November 14.

Jim Perry stated that fallen trees are being removed from the Mohawk-Mahican Trail, and then led a discussion on the **Wooded Loop Trail**. More orange blazes have been placed on trees and more brush has been removed from the trail. Jim mentioned that extending the trail to the logged section near Summit Avenue may be prohibitively difficult, requiring lots of bush whacking and dealing with slash, but would provide access to a nice system of roads. Garth LaPointe has identified and flagged a potential new trail to complete the Orange Loop Trail that would keep it off the Greenfield Road. The terrain is easily walked, and roughly 80% is on existing skid trails that can be cleared by hand this fall. **Action:** Need to obtain permission from Helen Payne to create this proposed new extension of the Orange Loop Trail.

Ridge Trail Maintenance: The Ridge Trail connecting the Tower Trail and the Trail to the High Ledges is possibly in need of upkeep. **Action:** Jim Perry and David Schochet will walk some of the trail to note appearance of blazes and see what needs to be done on the trail to clarify its route.

Membership Vacancies: Garth LaPointe is interested in becoming a member of the Open Space Committee, and all present welcomed his potential membership. **Action:** Larry will communicate with the Select Board to have Garth appointed.

Application for financial support from the Shelburne Cultural Council: Larry and Joanie prepared an application to fund construction of a sign for the Wooded Loop Trail that would inform about invasive plants in the area. There was some discussion concerning whether the sign topic should be about invasive species, or climate change, or logging, but the application had already been submitted.

The **2019 Mass Trails Conference** planned for the coming weekend was mentioned, and David indicated that he might attend.

Norm Beebe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, and Joanie Greenfield seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Johnson, Secretary pro-tem