

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 11/25/19

Members present: David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, Tom Johnson, Jim Perry, and Joel Dwight.

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

Minutes of 10/28/19 approved and accepted.

Notes of 8/26/19 reviewed and accepted.

David told us about the Mohawk Trail Partnership **grants** that need to be entered by Jan 20th and completed by June. He also told us about the Mass Trails DCR grants.

Larry recommended **Garth LaPointe to be a member** of the OSC but he hadn't heard any more from the selectmen or Garth. He also hasn't heard from Melissa regarding the state trails grant.

M and M trail update (Joan Hanford section)

David told us there is a good view of the dam that is downstream from the village. David and Jim thought it was rougher going than they anticipated. Norm thought it wasn't so bad except the Sweetheart related section. Melissa thought the trail after the Bench Road runs out headed toward the village becomes quite steep. The informal plan would be to return up through the Sweetheart so Norm envisions a fork to go back to the tennis courts. David also talked to Melissa about coming up East of the Sweetheart. There is a question of whether the power company owns a strip up to Route 2.

Whit Sanford stopped in and said GFSBA will be talking with FCLT about grant funding opportunities and how each may be positioned to help. Josh with the trail building company is working out some mapping issues and should have his report ready soon.

Art Schwenger wrote to David that his contact with Jane Hanford was rather inconclusive and that her son seems to have a rather negative attitude about the trail. The three ways to pursue a trail are letter of agreement, ten year easement, or easement in perpetuity. Art thought he and Melissa would be back in contact with Jane the week after Thanksgiving. **Norm** thought just be able to get a letter of agreement and have a trail established would be a good place to start if there wasn't much expense involved and Tom and Joel agreed. **Tom's friend**, the geologist will be here to look at the bank behind the village. **Joan** wondered about entering from the Maple St. end. **Larry** noted that Josh from Timber and Stone's report should include some cost estimates. **Tom** proposed we present a revocable agreement to Jane Hanford that would allow us to show how a trail would be. He also pointed out how a trail on the backside of road-front development might be an asset and not necessarily a negative. **Larry** also said we could beef up the \$17,000 funding for a permanent easement. **Joan** thought perhaps a time deadline associated with a monetary offer to Jane might spark some easement on her part. **Larry** also said we have the Open Space Donation account to bump up the \$17,000 from the state and add \$3,000 to it.

Larry also thought we might try to get trails grant money as we did last year. The consensus was we could apply for the **Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership money** for a trail over the bank from Maple St. (aka **Village Access Trail**) to the Lillian Davenport property for now and then expand out to Jane Hanford's from there. If that works out it would tie in with a grant for the future from M and M trail extension. Josh would have to look it over fairly soon within a week or so. **David** thinks we should meet

with Melissa because she is the lead for us with Josh and we should let her know how serious we are. We have a desire to put in the trail down to the tennis courts and have Josh see what that would involve. David, Jim, Tom, and Norm could meet with Melissa to talk about getting Josh for a design and cost estimate to put in the trail. **Norm** will call her tomorrow to try and arrange a meeting with as many as can make it. **Larry** will call Bob O'Connell and see if there is anything to learn about additional grant money.

Helen Payne said it was okay to proceed with **Wooded Loop Trail** improvements. Jim thinks next spring will be a good time to start and Garth will be recovered from his knee surgery.

David reported that he and Jim had walked the **Ridge Trail** and we have not heard anything from Audubon. Jim said there is a need to put in some new routing signs and blazes that will help keep people on course and is looking toward a spring workday. Jim met with a public affairs guy from Mass Audubon and told him that the local Audubon folks weren't being very responsive. Jim found signs that are used at another forest that are very good and made by Voss.

Meeting adjourned 9:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Dwight

Secretary Pro Tem