

These minutes approved unanimously at June 22nd committee meeting.

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES—June 1, 2020**

This meeting held via teleconference.

Members Present: Joan Greenfield, David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, Tom Johnson, Garth LaPointe, and Joel Dwight

Guest: Melissa Patterson-Serrill from Franklin Land Trust

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

Joel appointed secretary pro tem.

Minutes from April 2020 were reviewed and approved.

MM Trail - All of the trail abutters at the Deerfield Ave. end of the project have agreed to the exploration of putting through a trail. These include Ambrose, Killgallen, Topolski, Lawless, and Spencer. The most unstable portions of the bank seem to be on Shelburne town property and that of Killgallen and Ambrose.

Joel wondered if **Josh from Timber and Stone** might have worked with an engineer in the past that he could recommend to look into the stability of the bank. **Larry** wondered if Josh feels an engineering study is necessary. **David is scheduled to speak with Josh tomorrow and explore how much of the work Timber and Stone can do.** **Melissa** thought Josh couldn't proceed on that portion of the trail without a geotechnical study regarding stability of the bank and also pointed out that we need to assure as well as we can that whatever work is done will last for a long while.

Jim reminded us of the Guntlow numbers being \$7500-9500 for phase 1, \$5500-6500 for part 2A boring, \$12,900 for part 2B geotechnical, \$3500 for part 3 wetland permitting. Jim supports doing that initial work because any further progress and choices of ways to proceed hinge upon that.

Tom's colleague, the Mass state geologist (Steve Mabee) is coming up at some point to take a look at the area. David reminded us that this would be an information gathering and reporting of his observations, but not an official geological survey or site visit.

Tom told the group about a piece of hand carried equipment known as a **Winky drill** that could possibly be used for boring as opposed to a larger self propelled boring rig. He also said we should define which specific areas of the proposed trail might need engineering attention. David said he would like to speak with Peggy Sloan about our responsibilities concerning due diligence before we contract with anyone to actually do work so that we can be assured any contractor will get paid. Norm pointed out that Josh had done a foot by foot analysis of the proposed trail route and that should inform us as to which portions would need engineering. Melissa thinks she has a condensed version of Josh's assessment and will send that to Tom so he can share it with the state geologist.

Larry said we could look into **control of invasive species** along the trail route. David suggested **herbicide use** might be an issue if it was needed to clear the invasives.

Larry stated the **MTWP grant funds** we now have available would pay for phase 1 and part 2A.of the Guntlow proposal. Larry spoke about his concerns as to our ability to apply for second round grant funding which is due on June 18th because we did not really have a definitive project ready to apply for the grant funding with the June 18th deadline.

Melissa said the second grant could be directed toward another trail or project and that before the pandemic there was an idea of continuing on with a series of \$20,000 grants.

Larry proposed alerting the Selectboard that we are not going to apply for second round **MTWP grant funding** in the event that they would like to apply for it to be used for the other Town infrastructure issues.

Melissa said there are grants available for town owned forest lands.

Larry said we could eventually have access to **DCR recreational trail grant funds**, which could be used to pay for the actual construction of a geologically-sound trail (which might include the building of raised boardwalks with supports that are engineered.)

Garth said the surveyor he had met with would be agreeable to doing a survey of the area and would already have most of the documents and materials needed to

get it done. David then reviewed that we are holding off on the survey work for the Deerfield Ave area pending the geologist input.

New trail possibility--Tom and Jim are exploring the feasibility of a trail from Wilcox Hollow or the FLT trailhead and up the transmission line to the Fire Tower Trail. Jim has mapped out a proposed trail but gaining landowner permission is yet to be done and they are not at a point where a grant proposal could be written. **Melissa suggested** that we might want to consider linking a trail to Catamount which would then tie in to a trail into Heath. Melissa said FLT won't be updating their maps until fall or winter.

Wooded Loop Trail--Jim said when we get to a point where the Wooded Loop Trail is ready to push on to the top of Little Greenfield Mtn and on to Summit Ave, there will be a need for funding at that point. He also said we should print separate brochures for each trail.

Joan asked what **educational materials** are already available that we could build on. Garth asked if Paynes had expressed specific ideas about the educational prospect associated with the trails across their land. Larry answered that **Paynes are quite open to us deciding on the educational opportunities**. David thought a **discussion with Payne's forester Tom Brule** would be instructive and signs might include information about different forestry methods and why they might be used. **Joan suggested a subcommittee to explore** what might be included on signs and brochures. Larry pointed out there can be a lot of controversy surrounding timber harvesting but that it can have a very positive impact on the forest. **Garth and Jim** are interested in working on a subcommittee concerning educational signs and forestry education along with Joan and David. Larry is working with Cynthia Boettner on invasive species education possibilities. Larry told us we may have a bit of round one grant money left over after the geo surveying that we could redirect for signs and pointed out that in many instances the same educational signs could be deployed on a number of trails. **David will be in contact with the members** of the woodland educational subcommittee to decide how they will proceed with their work.

Jim asked if the GPS map he and Garth had made had been sent to Paynes because Tom Brule would need to leave a buffer strip along trail locations where possible.

David sent us all info on the **Franklin Conservation District Deerfield River Access Forum on June 15th** and wondered if Garth would be interested in attending. Jim will be there representing the Deerfield River Watershed Association and told us there is a limit on the number of participants.

David is sending out an **updated OSC membership list** and is asking all members to review it.

Larry is in contact with Paynes about the proposed trails on their property.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Dwight
Secretary Pro Tem