

These minutes unanimously approved @ 8/24/20 Committee meeting

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 7/27/20

[This meeting was held via teleconferencing]

Members Present: David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Joanie Greenfield, jim Perry, Tom Johnson, Joel Dwight

Guest: Lara Radysh (resident So. Maple St.)

David called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Minutes from the June 2020 OSC meeting accepted as submitted.

M-M Trail--Deerfield Ave access

Jim walked the proposed trail from Deerfield Ave with Charlie Labatt, Guntlow Assoc's geotechnical engineer.

Initial observations:

--low pressure treated bunks supporting a plank walkway and stairs where needed would be preferred way to proceed rather than an elevated walkway, as construction would be much less expensive and repair and maintenance would be much easier. **Tom added** we are likely to save quite a bit of money on projected engineering costs due to the change in construction of the walkway.

--mechanized boring would not be necessary and there would be no need for piers.

--recommended using a **decking material** made from recycled plastic that wouldn't get slippery would be better than pressure treated wood decking. [**Larry noted** that if boring isn't needed that will enable us to use that money on design, property surveys, and easements.]

Next steps--

Invasive species issues- David mentioned the invasive plant removal technique that involved invasive eradication plus planting of native vegetation as a method of keeping invasives from returning. [Invasive management is currently included in the second round of grant funding.]

Construction--Jim feels that we will need to contract with a company like Timber and Stone as the trail construction is more than we can handle with volunteers and there will be a need for wetlands permitting. David pointed out we will need to receive the final report from Guntlow Engineering before moving any further. **Tom asked** if we were waiting on anything from the **ZBA. Jim said the ZBA will want a property survey** which should be the next step following a positive assessment from Guntlow. Tom agreed that a survey was our logical next step. Permission and easements from property owners and abutters will also be needed for the ZBA.

Other issues--We then reviewed the sheet that property owners had signed giving consent to perform geotech assessment on their property and consenting to our exploring the feasibility of having the trail cross their property. **Lara** wondered whether all the details concerning the trail

was shared with all the people granting easements, eg, possible picnic tables, etc. **Tom pointed out they** agreed to negotiate in good faith on an easement for a trail.

Joanie asked for clarification re: Lara's connection to the project. **Lara stated** she is the owner of property that abuts town land. She feels her quality of life will be negatively affected by the project unless it connects through to Wilcox Hollow. She doesn't consider the current configuration of the trail as a true hiking trail but rather a river access point. **Lara** also wondered if the trail needed to **be handicap accessible**. Jim said he will look in to it, but thought it doesn't need to be.

Wooded Loop Trail update.

Jim and Garth have been laying out possible trails and there has been consultation with the Payne family and their forester Tom Brule. **There is upcoming logging scheduled for the property.** Jim and Garth have flagged out a loop off of the Orange Trail incorporating Little Greenfield Mountain and it will have to be reassessed after logging operations are over. There is also an obvious route from Little Greenfield Mountain to Summit Avenue. They are hoping to leave a buffer strip along the proposed trail that will not be logged off so as to limit the growth of successional plants that would need to be controlled. Jim said Garth has been mowing the current trails and is doing a great job of making them walkable.

Joanie asked if the slash from the logging would be dealt with and Jim said they had discussed that and it **is a concern that will need to be addressed**. Jim also said the logging project is tied to grant money Payne's are using for the project and that having hiking trails for the public included has a benefit for the Payne's.

Jim has **GPSed the Wooded Loop Trail**: there are color copies at the trail kiosk. He has tried to enter the information on to the All Trails Service but isn't having great success with them getting the trail maps on their site in the proper way.

David said he would still like to get together with Joan, Jim, and Garth to work on **educational trail signage**. Joan volunteered her back yard for a socially-distanced educational signage subcommittee meeting. David will coordinate meeting arrangements.

Committee liaison reports--.

There were no reports from committee liaison members. David will forward material via email from the Planning Board with the group, and he will check in with Norm from the Recreation Committee.

Other business—

Jim reported that someone **had painted graffiti on the rocks at Wilcox Hollow**. Authorities had identified the young woman responsible and they are in the process of determining what to do about it and who will pay for the cleanup.

Jim also reported that Charlemont is trying to put restrictions on river access and parking at Shunpike, and that Sunburn Beach has been closed. **Lara pointed out this pertains directly to her concern that the proposed trail will be used for river access** and will lead to the same situation seen in Charlemont. She asked that the Committee really take her concerns to heart

and seriously consider them. **Joanie pointed** out that these are not normal times due to the pandemic and that is likely a contributing factor. **Joanie and Joel** both reassured Lara that her concerns are understandable and that we do need to take them into serious consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight, Secretary Pro Tem