

Approved 9/28/20

**Town of Shelburne
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes 8/24/2020**
[This meeting held via teleconferencing]

Members present: Norm Beebe, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, Tom Johnson, Garth LaPointe, Jim Perry, David Schochet

Guests: Lara Radysh (resident So. Maple St)

Call to Order: 7:05; quorum noted.

Minutes of July 27 meeting were reviewed and accepted after changes were made in the spelling of Ms Greenfield's first name.

In the absence of Joel Dwight (our usual Sec'y Pro Tem), **David volunteered** to take notes, and **Larry took over chairing** the meeting.

--M-M Trail Update

David reported on conversation with Charlie LaBatt 8/20.

Charlie had just received the geotech engineer's report. His initial take-away was that we can most likely use a simpler method (rather than needing to sink piers to support a boardwalk) to cross wet, water-logged areas, by using the much-discussed "Curtain [or French] drain" technique (crushed stone, perforated pipe near surface, and buried in places where we need to divert deeper water), and having the footpath laid out on ground level. He anticipated having a full report, including a conceptual design in "a couple of weeks".

Larry suggested, and group agreed, that we hold off on any next steps (survey to identify boundaries and the trail's exact path) until we get Guntlow's document, and their bill. We'll have a better sense of what we can afford at that point.

David will reach out to Paul Janighe again for whatever guidance he can offer re: ADA compliance for hiking trails on public land, and then follow-up with the MOD personnel who was in touch with Lara Radysh.

--Ridge Trail update

Jim reported that the Ridge Trail is now completely blazed (and trimmed of encroaching thorny blackberries) from end-to-end—

One end starts as the Tower Trail (on Halligan Ave), the other starts just over the stone wall to the left of where the High Ledges Trail begins. Thank you, Jim...

--Educational Signage

-Kudos to Jim and Joanie for the drafts of 6 possible signs.

-Discussion of the format for the signs—(agreement that signs should be of standard format)

-Should pictures be included? (Cons: added expense, size of signage; Pro: attractiveness)

-Should we involve a graphic designer? (Tom with discuss this with his wife, Kate)

-Should we reach out to schools to involve students? (Both Garth's and Norm's wife are/were teachers, and could advise us on this. They will consult)

-Other resources for information: Tom Brule had offered to provide sources of info on forestry; **Pamela Snow, a colleague of Joanie's, works at Harvard Forest: Joanie will contact her.**

-Jim and Joanie will work on the invasive species signage, and consult with Cynthia Boettner.

--New Business

-Jim raised the issue of **significant graffiti on rocks visible from Wilcox Hollow**. He's had success removing some of it, and **invites all interested in helping in the clean-up to bring battery-powered drills w/ wire brush attachment (and/or portable generators) this Wednesday 8/26 @9am.**

-The road into Wilcox Hollow continues to present a significant safety hazard. Ownership of the road is unclear (power company? Which one? Does town have any responsibility?) Alan Harris continues to try to get to the bottom of things.....Unclear how to proceed.....

--Committee Reports

Planning Board- Tom announced a **public meeting to review zoning by-law updates Wednesday 9/9 at 7:30.** Some marijuana-related, and small

modifications of existing laws. **Tom thought there would be a special Town Meeting in the Fall.....**

Recreation Committee- Norm reported that Covid has shut down the Cowell—simply not able to provide a safe, disinfected space. The BB hoops are down, no organized softball games, but folks are using the tennis courts.

David was asked to reach out to Norm Davenport(ConComm) and Beth Manning (AgComm) to see if they could interest one of their members to represent their committee at OSC meetings.

--Guest comments

Our guest had no comments at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Next meeting: 9/28, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

David Schochet, Co chair