

Approved 11/23/20

Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 10/26/2020

Members present: Norm Beebe, Larry Flaccus, Joanie Greenfield, Tom Johnson, Jim Perry, David Schochet

Guests: Cristin Couture, Steve Earp, Jacqui Goodman, Lara Radysh

Call to Order at 7:05pm. Lacking a volunteer, David agreed to take minutes, and Larry chaired the meeting.

Minutes from 9/28 meeting **unanimously approved** after correction of spelling of Nan Parati's name.

Deerfield Ave access to proposed MM extension Review and discussion of the report from **Guntlow Assoc** about the stability of the two wet areas along the proposed route from Deerfield Ave. Basic findings reveal stability-compromised slopes with shallow soil covering rock boulders and debris—difficult terrain for stable trail building. Three approaches were identified in the report: construction of French drains to divert the water under a ground-level trail (\$44/lf); a ground-level wooden plank trail with somewhat raised members would be the least impactful, but may tend to get slippery, and might need more maintenance (\$30/lf); an elevated trail bridge constructed on piers drilled into the ground, the most expensive and most disruptive method (\$100+/lf).

Jim spoke in favor of the wooden plank trail, and that seemed to be the consensus of the meeting.

Wetlands delineation review will be necessary for Cons Comm sign-off on the trail-making project and for any work removing the heavy growth of invasives, and the ultimate replacement with native flora. Reviewed Lincoln Fish's (Bay State Forestry Service) impressions, that removal/restoration project would most likely be a 3 year job, and that it would be best to have all the approvals in place before the spring.

Budget/funding issues- Larry reported that we had \$8-9,000 left in our first MTWP grant, needing to be spent by 6/31/21. If Guntlow can do wetlands permitting work, could FRCOG to extend and repurpose our current contract with them? If we need to start from scratch, how best to create an RFP containing all necessary services and deliverables? Brainstorm about how we can create an RFP, perhaps Cynthia could help. Ask FRCOG for their expertise? How do get a multi-year project funded with one year grants? Can we (someone) create a time line/flowchart?

Communication with abutting landowners. There was support for reconnecting with the landowners we spoke with earlier (when we got their permission to conduct the geotechnical and invasives surveys on their land), to update them and

hear their concerns. Kristin thought updates would be helpful. Tom suggested that we use the next town meeting to make a report of our plans, accomplishments and work so far to the whole town. Jacqui thought that was a good idea. Lara wanted folks to know that as currently envisioned, it was not a through-trail, and wanted committee members to imagine what they might feel if someone was putting in a hiking trail right by their property. Steve said he liked the idea of the trail, and didn't see it as a problem. The idea of an article in the Recorder was broached.

Wooded Loop Trail—People have been letting us know how much they enjoy and are impressed by the Wooded Loop trail system. **Joanie** raised the issue of how best **to inform community members** about the presence of the local trails, perhaps offering special ‘guided’ walks with educational components.

Trail Maps- That led to a brief discussion of how to move forward with map development. **David reported** that the stock of our current omnibus trail map (published in 2010) is nearing depletion (maybe 60 or so left—Jim's been fund-raising with them at the Tower Trail and they're available at the Wooded Loop kiosk) and we should think about creating a new edition. **Larry** asked us to consider one omnibus map, and individual maps for each trail.

A detailed presentation and discussion of **signage options** followed. Larry and Jim presented their research—lots of options and questions....how to decide on the “look” of Shelburne maps; should we use a local graphic designer, or the services of the sign-making companies; size, color, pictures, price were all discussed. No clear favorite. Larry will continue his research, and will compare notes with Jim.

Next meeting: Monday Nov 23rd, 7:00pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Schochet, co-chair and Sec'y ProTem