

**Approved 12/28/20**

**Minutes of Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 11/23/20**

**Members present:** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joanie Greenfield, Tom Johnson, Garth LaPointe, Jim Perry, David Schochet

**Larry called the meeting to order** at 7:05pm.

**Minutes from 9/28** meeting, with typos corrected, were **unanimously approved**.

David appointed Secy Pro Tem; Larry continued as Chair.

**Abuttor contacts:** David thought it might be helpful to create a list of talking points-topics/specific info so that all committee members would share the same info when speaking with abuttors and other town residents.

**Some specific items were identified and David was tasked with creating a document to share with Committee members.**

**Invasives:** Discussion of relative merits/drawbacks of herbicide spraying vs. manual removal (root and all). Garth was impressed with a video that showed the progress of a community group in Vermont that was clearing a riverside of invasives using manual labor and replanting, and thought we might want to emulate their efforts where it was possible to actually dig out the plants. One advantage would be that interested Shelburne residents could become involved in the building and the maintenance of the trail. **Jim** mentioned that it may be an option to spray the invasive species in the non-wet areas and remove them by hand in the wetlands areas. Jim reposted the video for our viewing. .

**Disability access issues:** David has reached out to Jakira Rogers of the Mass Office on Disability (the same person Lara R has spoken with), but has not heard back. Will continue to pursue.

**Recorder article:** Larry was interviewed by a reporter from the Greenfield Recorder who was interested in doing an article on the Deerfield Ave trail project. Not sure when the article will be published.

**Educational Signage:** Long, detailed examination of the various options available from the various sign-making companies identified by Larry, and how best to use our current grants to pay for them. There was support for relatively high quality products (longer life span, clearer text, ability to use pictures,) and questions about whether the signs would come already framed and the ease of attachment of the sign to the support post.

**Garth** to look into local options for aluminum signs. **Joanie** to bring Jim's sign content to Nan Parati to see if she might be willing/able to bring an overall "design

sensibility” to them. **Jim** believes that Vacker Sign may do the layout and design as part of the price of the sign. **Larry** will check with Vacker to see if that is correct.

**Funding signage:** Larry thought that we might use our 2<sup>nd</sup> MTWP grant to pay for educational signage (currently committed to dealing with invasives and for an official survey to delineate property boundaries at the Deerfield Ave entrance to the trail (Mayhew, Spencer, Kilgallon), and use our current Cultural Council grant to pay for the large invasive species sign to be placed at the start of the Wooded Loop trails.

**Other M-M expansion possibilities:** Norm raised the possibility of approaching the Hanford family to request permission to mark an “informal trail” through their property (from the FLT property to the electric power lines adjacent to the Sweetheart, which would abut Town-owned property). After a brief discussion it was decided that **Norm will contact Art Schwenger and discuss this possibility.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Recreation**--Norm reported that a pickle-ball court is being taped out at Cowell Gym. Ice skating on Topolski’s side lawn is back

**Planning Board**—Tom reported that they have been working on modifications to various by-laws, addressing affordable housing, climate change, and will report out at the next Town Meeting. Tom agreed that it would be appropriate for the OSC to approach the PB to eliminate or modify the current special permit requirement for the creation of a hiking trail.

**Next meeting:** Monday Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned @ ~9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,  
David Schochet, co-chair