

Approved 1/25/21

**Shelburne OSC Meeting**

**Monday 12/28/20**

*This meeting was held virtually on Zoom*

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

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

**Members Absent:** Norm Davenport, Joanie Greenfield, Carolyn Wheeler

**Guests:** Thor Holbek, Lara Radysh, Bob Higgins

The minutes from the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved and accepted after a minor correction.

**Ongoing Business:**

**M+M Trail Updates**

Larry has contacted Polatin Ecological Services LLC and Baystate Forestry Services so there will be two companies available for **invasive plant remediation services**.

David is waiting to hear back from state officials about trail access requirements for those with disabilities.

Larry reported both of the MTWP grants for the new trail and signage etc have been extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Larry told us one task covered by the second grant is a **survey property lines of abutters** to the trail which could be done now. **Norm, Jim, Garth, and Tom** will work on creating a document to describe the scope of the job, which can serve as a RFP to send to prospective surveyors. Joel suggested Dan Werner as a local surveyor we could contact.

**Guntlow's next step** is to identify and delineate wetlands . This may not occur until spring and has to be accomplished before we meet with the Conservation Commission.

Jim suggested we **re-contact the property owners** whose land the trail will cross to update them and to determine if they are all still on board. **David will create a fact sheet of talking points** so each member can share the same information with "their" abutter.

**Norm had spoken with Art Schwenger** about the Hanford property which could join the new trail with the M+M Trail. Art suggested he could approach Jane Hanford's son Mark about identifying a trail and allowing a temporary access to walk through the property. Art doesn't think the property is enrolled in any of the chapters relating to taxes. Jane's concern is that a permanent easement for the trail would diminish the value of the property. Norm said there may be a state tax credit that would address this

concern by making up the difference if the value of the property with the easement less that the value without. **Norm will speak with Melissa at Franklin Land Trust to get more detail on this possibility and ask Art to proceed with speaking with the Hanfords.**

#### **Wooded Loop Update**

Larry is going to re-contact Vackers regarding signage as he has not heard back from his previous attempt.

Garth spoke about his contacts with local businesses: they could provide signage at a more reasonable price than options we are currently looking at.

**Norm will ask about signage** that has recently been installed in Heath when he talks with Art Schwenger. **Garth, Jim and Thor** will look into various sign material options.

#### **New Business**

**Thor Holbek** is interested in becoming an OSC member. David introduced him and Thor shared some of his interests and background. He will put together an biographical/informational sheet to be presented to the Selectboard for their consideration.

**The group voted to request that the Selectboard appoint Thor to fill one of the vacant OSC seats. David will forward Thor's bio and a cover letter to the Selectboard, urging they do so.**

#### **Guest Input**

Lara expressed a concern that we **lack diversity** on our committee. The group concurred and briefly reviewed the past membership, which had been more diverse in the past; including a number of women, one of whom was chairperson of the committee. We have tried to recruit more women and have seats open which any resident could volunteer to fill.

Lara asked if there is more information about habitat and endangered species issues involved with the proposed new trail. She also has issues about spraying of any herbicides. Bob reminded us of information he provided to us about human traffic on hiking trails and its affect on wildlife.

**David will follow up with Cynthia Boettner re: how best to address any issues the trail might raise regarding the classification of the Deerfield River corridor as Core Habitat on the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's current BioMap2.**

#### **Committee Reports**

**Tom reported the Planning Board** is working on items for the Town Meeting including affordable housing and home businesses.

Next meeting: January 27th via Zoom

Meeting adjourned 8:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel V. Dwight  
Secretary Pro Tem