

Shelburne OSC Special Meeting June 10, 2021

Meeting held by Zoom called to order by Larry at 11:00 AM.

Joel appointed Secretary Pro-tem.

Members present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joanie Greenfield, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight

Guest: Lara Radysh, Shelburne resident from South Maple St.

Charlie LaBatt, engineer, and AndreAnne Chenaille, wetland specialist, from Guntlow and Associates Williamstown MA joined the meeting to inform us about their work regarding the trail beginning at the end of Deerfield Ave.

First the committee voted unanimously to approve expenditure to reimburse Jim Perry \$121.80 for payment to Voss Signs. Motion made by Joanie Greenfield and seconded by Norm Beebe.

Charlie explained the survey Guntlow had done of the property and the trail's relationship to the property lines of abutters. The permitting that is needed is under the purview of the Conservation Committee.

Jim Perry explained our trail design plan and Charlie said most of the trail work would be exempt and not require permitting. However, where the trail crossed wetlands permitting and mitigation would be needed.

Charlie cautioned us to be careful with **invasive plant species removal** in wetland areas. While it may be possible to remove them and replace them with native wetland species as mitigation, he suggests leaving invasive plant removal plans open so we can make realistic goals to a permitted finish.

Steps on the trail are a recommendation from Guntlow but not mandated. We can determine crossing steeper areas as we build the trail and such work is not subject to the ConsCom.

Guntlow envisions **ravine crossings** having small Forest Service style bridges which will not impact the banks of what are jurisdictionally called intermittent streams. Walking around them at the bottom of the channels may be possible if that is what we prefer.

Jim thought we should choose permitting the sixteen foot bridges indicated on the Guntlow plan. Charlie suggested the maximum permitting would be the ground route with the bridges being less.

Joanie asked about the need for **handrails on the bridges**. Charlie said handrails would not be required and we could decide once the bridges are built whether or not we want handrails. This would not fall under the purview of the ConsCom or the Building Inspector. He suggested we consider a handrail on both sides as a precaution.

Charlie said stepping stones could be used to cross a water channel. However, a bridge spans the resource area without touching it which might be less impactful than stepping stones and so would be considered out of the jurisdiction of the ConsComm. The remainder of the trail is pretty straight forward.

The plan drawn up by Guntlow shows the trail route between stations 1 + 50 to 3 + 25 and then from 7 + 20 to 8 + 25 are very close to abutting property lines and may be over the lines depending on Assessor map accuracy. Charlie said the Notice of Intent for our project should not encumber the neighbors' properties. There is one invasive plant species spot we may not want to work on until permission is obtained from the property owner.

Digging up invasive plants may bring on ConsCom regulation while snip and spray may not.

Charlie said the Mayhew building does extend onto Mill Rd.

Larry told Charlie we may want to further define the property lines.

Jim said the deed for the Kilgallen property shows the property ends at the edge of Mill Rd. and not extending to the river as shown on Assessors maps.

Jim asked Charlie for clarification on the **erosion control** notes on the plan. Charlie said the erosion control should be reworded to make it clear that erosion control is not needed along the full length of the project but is limited to resource areas and areas adjacent that drain toward those resource areas.

Jim then asked if we can **treat the Japanese barberry** on the several areas where it is thick. Charlie asked for a paragraph defining where the barberry areas are to define those areas for the ConsCom and our control measure will be spraying. David spoke about multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet in some areas and our desire to remove them and replace them with native plant species. Jim will include these in the proposal narrative.

Any wetland-related activities are clearly on the town owned parcels.

Jim asked about **using smaller width lumber** than the 2 x 14 pressure treated shown on the plan due to the difficulty in procuring that dimension locally.

Charlie said that should work but not to use composite material as it lacks structural strength. He will permit for a maximum distance on the supports spacing supporting the planks then anything under that will be fine.

Jim's final question was about **wetlands replication**. Charlie said it involves a little planting and the areas are a little wet and could be seeded with a wetland seed mix and herbaceous species which wouldn't impact the trail.

Joanie asked about a timeline. Larry said he thought we need to resolve the survey for the easements before we go to the ConsCom. Charlie thinks we can permit before the easements are resolved because the private property crossings may not need comment from the ConsCom. Larry thought the trail may be ready for next summer.

A motion was made by Norm and seconded by David to **accept the draft plan** and \$8,000 invoice from Guntlow and Associates and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

Norm asked if **further surveying** can be done by Guntlow and Larry said we will speak with them to get an estimate for the work.

Charlie asked us to do more research on Mill Rd. And suggested the Shelburne Highway Dept. might have some information.

Larry called for **guest comments**.

Lara Radysh said she wanted access to all of the documents. Larry said they will be posted on the town website.

Charlie commented that the entire project while focusing on the walking trail, should be considered a riverfront improvement.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel V. Dwight
Secretary Pro-tem