

Town of Shelburne

Open Space Committee

Minutes of 7/26/2021 Meeting Approved 8/30/21

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Members Present: Norm Beebe(RecComm), Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joanie Greenfield, Thor Holbek, Jim Perry, David Schochet, John Wheeler(Planning Board)

Guests: Cynthia Boettner (Shelburne Falls resident and form OSC member), Ellen Jenkins (Shelburne Falls resident and Conservation Commission member, interested in learning more about the OSC and perhaps becoming a member)

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem

OSC minutes of 6/28/21 meeting reviewed and accepted unanimously after one correction. Under Ongoing Business line 4 replace “Larry sent them on to Andrew Baker and he signed them as owner for the town” with “Guntlow Associates sent the forms to Larry and Andrew Baker signed them as owner for the town.”

Education on Invasives - Joni and Cynthia reported they developed some invasives education material , including an outline and evaluation, and shared them with Elia Wootenden (??)(who was teaching this summer at Mohawk Trail Regional School). Cynthia said the handouts have been forwarded to Larry to share with the rest of the group. Discussion followed re: the role of OSC members in disseminating the information on invasives—should we be prepared to give presentations to school and other groups, or should we present the materials to the teachers—a- train-the-teacher-approach-- answer their questions, etc, and have them present the information to students in the way they think best. Joni and Cynthia favor the train-the-teacher approach. Cynthia is going to walk around the elementary school perimeter to see what invasives might be there. Larry invited Cynthia and Joni to work up a paragraph about their experience with Ms. Wootenden, the summer teacher at Mohawk.

Jim said he was interviewed by middle schoolers (in his role as the Director of the Deerfield River Watershed Assoc) about trash in the river and that might be something that could be done on invasive species. Norm said the OSC should be a resource for materials that teachers could use in their programs. Joni, Jim, and Cynthia will attempt to contact the school to learn what they might be interested in.

Shelburne Falls Riverside Trail Grants Update - Larry followed up with Bob O'Connor: our state grant extension was approved in June, extended to June 2022. We have about \$15,000 left to use. Larry said we need to accomplish the survey of easements and nail down invasive species treatment. He will approach Guntlow Associates about further work to be done and how we might fit into the Shelburne Falls Recovery Plan. Jim suggested we should also do a Tower Trail map/brochure.

Wooded Loop Update – David will be joining Jim and Jim's daughter's boyfriend to install educational signage on the trail. Norm will call Garth to see if he can join them at 9:00 am on Saturday. Thor will talk with Garth about helping to mow grass on the trail.

Pollinator Project - Joel read a portion of his letter concerning the Shelburne Pollinator Plan. Larry encouraged him to send it on to Helena Farrell of FRCOG, which he will do. David will speak with Joel about a response to Helena.

Community Preservation Act - Larry sent out an agenda for the meeting tomorrow night. He told us the OSC is a key player and CPA funding specifically targets preservation of open space and development of outdoor recreation. However he doesn't see much momentum in town for taking on the daunting process of getting town approval to become a CPA eligible town. Larry and David will attend tomorrow's meeting.

New Business - Our membership has changed. Tom Johnson is no longer on the Planning Board so we are in need of a new rep from that group. David reported the Ag Commission now has full membership and Carolyn Wheeler will see who is interested in being their liaison to OSC. John Wheeler said he will be approaching the Planning Board members about becoming the OSC liaison at their next meeting and he will join us himself at times. The Planning Board currently has 2 open seats and one person showing interest in joining. He reported the PB has been talking about the pollinator project and is happy to encourage the steps FRCOG suggests but was unsure how they might be enforced. He also said the PB supports our trail work.

Membership Update - David introduced Ellen Jenkins as a person interested in joining the OSC. She has been on the Shelburne CC for 4 years and on the CC in Heath for 2 years. Larry asked if she might consider being the Cons Comm liaison. David will get back in touch with Ellen. Larry noted there are two routes available for Ellen to be on the OSC ---as a liaison from the Cons Comm or as an appointed member. We thanked her for her interest.

Shelburne Falls Riverside Trail as part of the Recovery Plan – As part of the planning for Shelburne's post-COVID recovery, FRCOG identified connecting the town with the Deerfield River to enable new recreation oppys for residents and visitors. Funding may be available. Norm said FRCOG is going to come up with an action plan.

Open Space plan Renewal - Jim reminded us that our Open Space and Recreation Plan needs to be renewed. Joel suggested one of our state reps might help us to get together with other small towns and extend the Open Space Plan renewal requirement beyond 7 years. Norm said he will contact Adam Hinds. Joel will contact Natalie Blais.

Rec Committee - Norm reported they will meet in August and the Cowell Gym is still closed due to Covid restrictions.

Planning Board - John reported they are discussing the pollinator plan and waiting for further clarification from FRCOG.

Tree Walk - David told us the Bridge St repairs will take down some of the trees on our Tree Walk. Larry said we should see if the project can pay for updating our brochures. Monday August 2 will be a walking tour with an engineer. There will be a Zoom meeting for interested members of the public August 16 at 6:00 pm. David and Jim will attend the walk.

Next OSC Meeting - Our next meeting will be Monday August 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Perry. Second by Norm Beebe. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.