

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes approved 12/13/21

11/22/21

Larry called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan Greenfield, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Garth LaPointe and Joel Dwight

Guests: Lara Radyish, Bob Higgins, Cynthia Boettner

Review of the minutes from 10/25/21: Motion by Jim Perry, second by David Schochet. **Unanimously accepted as presented.**

New Agenda Items: David Schochet Open Space and Recreation Plan, Section 9 goals and objectives.

Ongoing Business:

Riverside Trail - Larry hasn't heard from Guntlow Associates about the survey. Norm reported the Conservation Commission would like our Guntlow documentation but said they didn't need to walk the proposed trail.

Wooded Loop Trail - David reported a group (Jim, Joanie, Garth, Norm, Cynthia, David) walked more than half the trail identifying areas displaying **forest succession**. The trails were in very good shape, as was the educational signage (forestry topics and tree identifications) that Jim and others had installed earlier. **Bottom line-the** group felt there was enough there for meaningful learning for groups visiting the trail. **Cynthia took notes** and will send them out to everyone. **Larry said** that The Mohawk Woodlands Partnership might be interested in the trail's educational potential. **Cynthia said once the tree species** along the trail are identified she would like to do some research on them and see how they relate to wildlife and forest plant interaction. Cynthia had hiked the trail with Rita Jaros (ex-OSC member) and Rita noted how nicely marked and maintained the trails were. Jim received an email from Rita noting how impressed she was with the trail.

Further Upkeep Projects: Jim identified some wet spots with a walk around that need work on the Yellow Trail, and two muddy spots on Orange Trail (one 8' and one 20') would benefit from ground level boardwalks to minimize erosion. **Jim has most of the material** but needs five more deck boards that will cost approximately \$60. **Larry will check to see if we have funds** from brochure sales which could be used to procure the needed deck boards.

At this point the Zoom call was hacked. We took a few minutes to recover and everyone got back together, reestablishing the meeting at 7:37pm.

Publicity for Our Network of Trails - Larry suggested we may want to wait until Spring to encourage new hikers. Norm read a small presentation **put together by Garth** which would invite teachers and students to use the trails. **Joan thought that a year-round plan of education and publicity** to encourage public use of the trails would be more effective than a onetime notice. She suggested a group might get

together to develop a multi-step action plan that would reach more of the public--Village residents as well as visitors. The group could identify the different populations that might use the trails, and then document the responses we receive to the various outreaches. A series of articles in The Recorder four times or so per year could prove useful in keeping the trails in the public mind. **Norm thought the Recreation Committee could send out information through their Facebook page and list serve.** Norm also suggested we might want to **get permission to email teachers at BSE and Mohawk and let them access our various brochures electronically.** **Cynthia thought if more people could be** made aware of the Recreation Committee Facebook page many of them might be interested in new things like the hiking trails.

At this point **the meeting was hacked again** and we took a brief recess while Norm worked to straighten it out.

David told us there will be a Community Preservation Act Zoom meeting Tuesday Nov. 30th at 7pm. The working group is planning a large public CPA forum in February, to further educate Town residents about all aspects of CPA—what Town residents would need to agree to put in place, and what benefit(s) would accrue to the Town, should CPA be approved by Town residents.

Jim Perry made a motion to make our next meeting be Monday Dec. 13th at 7pm by Zoom and Joan Greenfield seconded.

Norm Beebe moved to adjourn the meeting. Joan Greenfield seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Dwight
Secretary Pro Tem