

**These minutes approved unanimously at 24Jan22 OSC meeting**

**Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 12/13/21**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7pm

**Joel appointed** Secretary Pro Tem.

**Members Present** Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight, Larry Flaccus, Joan Greenfield, Thor Holbek, Jim Perry, David Schochet

Guests: Cynthia Boettner, Lara Radysh, John Wheeler

**Minutes from 11/22/21 meeting reviewed** and unanimously accepted.

**Education Project:**

**Cynthia reported** she met with several teachers at Mohawk Trail Regional School—2 seventh grade teachers that work as a team, and a ninth grade teacher. They are considering adding more about invasive species to their Spring curriculum and are interested in the OSC trails. Cynthia gave them invasives brochures and leaf identification handouts, and will keep in touch with them to help and be a resource in the curriculum building. The ninth grade teacher may be interested in a garlic mustard pull on the school grounds. **Jim has a meeting this coming Thursday** about an opportunity to with seventh graders concerning careers in conservation. Cynthia will be speaking as well.

**Ongoing Business:**

The meeting unanimously voted to approve using the OSC revolving acct to reimburse Jim for the \$119.18 he laid out for pressure treated lumber to be used for improvements on the Wooded Loop Trail. Larry reported that we received a \$110 contribution to the OSC revolving account.

**Wooded Loop Updated:**

Jim has lumber that needs to be transported to the Wooded Loop Trail. He is hoping Garth LaPointe will be able to help with his ATV and trailer. Jim will send out an email to line up a work day this week while it is warm.

**Publicity for Current Trails:**

**Joan, Norm, and his wife Jacqui** talked about ways to get the word out to the public about the trails in the spring. Joan suggested outreach about a recreation/open space/healthy town concept to include citizen involvement through some coordinated publicity, using Greenfield Recorder, the Recreation Committee List Serve and Facebook page, and the Hilltown Families Facebook page. Articles might highlight one trail at a time and include links to all of the trails.

Other ways to **highlight the trails** might be to host a scavenger hunt or other trail-based educational activity, and advertise the activity via a town wide contact call. Larry thought The Recorder might be interested in featuring the volunteer aspect of the work involved in Wooded Loop Trail. Joan would like to see the hiking trails tied in with other opportunities in town for residents to get outside and make us

a town that supports many activities and interests. To this end we will join forces with the Recreation Committee. David suggested the tree walk with its historic buildings could be incorporated in that kind of effort. Jim said the Greenfield Recorder has had a feature, usually near Bill Danielson's nature column, which has highlighted hikes in the past and is currently highlighting state parks. He suggested something similar could be done to make people aware of Shelburne's trails.

Joan added that the word "hike" may seem daunting to some, Jim suggested the word "walk" could be used, Joan would like to see us broaden our scope to include other activities as well.

**Next Steps** - Norm and the Recreation Committee will talk it over in their January meeting and will include Joan in their formulation of a method of outreach.

#### **CPA Update:**

There will be a CPA committee meeting tomorrow night and a forum in February. Larry reminded us about the opportunity to put a flyer in the census envelopes that go out to residents in January. John Wheeler attended the last CPA meeting and said Andrew Baker was looking into what could be sent out or put on the town website concerning the CPA. Alyssa from FRCOG made a PowerPoint presentation at that meeting. Larry noted Alyssa is leaving FRCOG at the end of December and Kimberly McPhee is picking up her work for now. John said the Planning Board has been discussing the CPA. Larry also said Jackie Walsh has resigned from the Finance Committee and that might affect the Finance Committee's views of the CPA. Larry, David, and Norm will try to attend tomorrow night's meeting of the CPA working committee..

Larry then brought up the topic of **Section 9 of the Open Space/Recreation plan**. Section 9 has about 32 items in the Action Plan which includes multiple town boards. **He will send the document out to all of us again and we will all review it and be ready to discuss it at the January OSC meeting.**

Larry will also send a request to the Selectmen for **local technical assistance** for the updating of the Open Space and Recreation plan. Jim asked how our receiving of grants would be affected by not updating the plan. Larry said State grants like those from DCR would be negatively impacted.

#### **Community Strategy Document:**

Required by the Department of Housing and Community Development, OSC has a portion included in this **document which Larry has sent out to all of us**. He thinks we could expand on public recreation in town to include more on trails. Under the economic development goals, we might add some information on the benefits of CPA providing the town a stream of revenue.

**John said at the last Planning Board meeting they talked about the Master Plan**, economic development update and how FRCOG might work on that along with the Open Space and Recreation Plan (which is covered by the local technical assistance grants). The Planning Board is also interested in the affordable housing component. **John will see what might be added from a Planning Board perspective and Larry will include that in the information he sends to Terry**. The last update was in 2018. An update used to be required yearly but that is no longer the case. **Everyone should look over the document when Larry sends it out to us and send him any comments they may have.**

**New Business:**

**Current Membership Updates and Committee Liaison Updates** - David sent out requests to the Planning Board, Ag Commission, and Conservation Commission regarding liaisons. **John is going to talk about having a liaison from the Planning Board when they meet.** Norm will continue to be Liaison from the Recreation Committee. **David will follow up with Ag and Conservation Commission.** The OSC membership list has been updated on the town website but does not appear to be accurate. Larry will have the names of liaisons that have not yet been approved removed from the list.

**Annual Report:**

Larry asked for a volunteer to draft a report or make notes as to what we have accomplished over the past year for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. Our report needs to be in by March. **Larry will draft the report this year but looks forward to someone else doing it in the future.**

**Correspondence:**

David contacted the folks with the Open Space Handbook and did request 5 or 6 hard copies. Let him know if you would like a copy. He is also getting a copies of the Handbook on how to update an Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**Committee Reports:**

**John reported the Planning Board** had Andrew Smith from the Municipal Planning Vulnerability program speak about how Shelburne might become a member of the program. John said the Planning Board has been working on a number of things **including signage on Route 2, clarifying signage regulations and will be taking suggestion and input from the public.**

**Norm reported the Recreation Committee** met last week. The Select Board is allowing the **Cowell Gym** to be used with masking along with a monitor. Any request for using the Cowell Gym must go through the Select Board. **Stephan Topolski is again volunteering his yard for skating** as weather allows. John added CPA funds could potentially be used for a public skating area.

**Ag Commission and Conservation Commission not available for reports.**

**Joel reported on his conversation with Representative Natalie Blais.** She understood our desire for **updating of Open Space and Recreation Plans** to be extended to at least ten year intervals, especially for smaller communities such as ours. She further said a workbook concerning these updates is itself updated about every five years. This was just recently done so we should bring this topic up again closer to the time when the workbook will once again be updated.

Norm told us a new meeting link for our Zoom meetings will start in January.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 24th

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry, seconded by Thor Holbek. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight: Secretary Pro Tem