

These minutes approved at the 28Feb2022 meeting of the OSC

MINUTES of OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING 24Jan2022

Larry called meeting to order 7:05. Norm noted that the meeting was being recorded.

David assigned to take minutes. Minutes of the 12/13/21 meeting reviewed and unanimously approved.

Larry requested and body approved that items “Collaboration with the Conway School” and “Annual Report” be added to agenda.

Trail(s) Update—Jim reported on the **new Tower Trail map** he is working on, having reached out for input from DCR, MASSAudubon, Shelburne ConComm , OSC, and Franklin Land Trust (still awaiting their input). Larry suggests that the Arms Cemetery be indentified. Jim noted that Melissa Patterson (formerly at FLT) is now at MASSAudubon, which should strengthen our connection.

Jim noted that **MASSAudubon is planning to issue a new map** of the entire High Ledges trail system. Discussion of need for upgraded trail marking for the whole system.

Jim reported on the state of the **Mahican-Mohawk Trail at Wilcox Hollow**, an area of substantial visitor use. He noted that a 3 log bridge has rotted out, and thinks it may fall to private citizens to replace it, as the utility company may not see replacement as a priority.

Kudos and gratitude expressed for Jim’s initiative, skills and unbounded energy.

Community Preservation Act-- Discussion of CPA, upcoming planning meetings, and the Public Forum planned for Feb 16th. Noted that many of the OSC and Recreation Committee projects (like educational and interpretive signs along hiking trails) would be very appropriate for CPA funding. OSC members encouraged to attend the CPA forums.

Annual Report- Reviewed the OSC section of the Town’s Annual Report. Thanks expressed to Larry for again taking on the updating. Noted that ~5600 acres of Shelburne land has some kind of protection (APR, the Chapters, CRs, FLT owned).

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update- It was agreed that sometime soon we will need to undertake the renewal of our OSRP, a daunting task. Larry requested that the Town include and prioritize Local Technical Assistance funding for the update in its annual request to FRCOG so that we would have funds for new maps and for much of the actual writing of the Plan's text. The Selectboard agreed to do that. David heard that a town in eastern Mass has created **a step-by-step guide** to the renewal process; he'll try to track that down.

Conway School Project—The Conway School of Landscape Design (based in Northampton) has its students take on real-life projects as part of their education and training. Would it be feasible and possible (timing-wise) to offer the Shelburne Falls Riverside Trail as a project, to create an integrated plan to address access, invasives and educational aspects?

New NO Trespassing sign—Garth raised the issue of the very large and somewhat threatening No Trespassing sign across the road from the entrance to the Wooded Loop trails. It's an eyesore for the nearby residents on So Shelburne Rd and could be a deterrent to people wanting to use the Wooded Loop trails. Wondered whether Ms Cosby was aware of it? Larry will discuss with Margaret Payne, who may have dealings with the Cosbys.

Publicity for Trails—It was agreed that Andrew Baker's new Community Bulletin Newsletter would be a good mechanism to get the word out to Shelburnites about the Town's trails. Jim and Joanie said they'd draft something and submit to Andrew.

School Liaison-Joanie reported that Cynthia Boettner was going to meet with Ms Woofenden to discuss concrete ways we could collaborate with teachers at Mohawk Regional.

Recreation Committee report-- Norm said that Dr Topolski has opened his side-yard skating rink again, and that Charlemont Academy and Youth Basketball are using the Cowell.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm

David Schochet, Co-chair and Sec'y Pro Tem

