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## Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 6/27/22

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Joan Greenfield, Jim Perry, and Joel Dwight

**Guests:** Andrea and Kimberley from FRCOG

Larry brought the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. **Minutes of 5/23/22 were reviewed and accepted** with a minor amendment. Joan Greenfield moved to approve Jim Perry seconded.

### Open Space Plan Update

At the May meeting **we formed a subcommittee made up of Norm, Joan and Jim to meet with Andrea from FRCOG to review the old Open Space Plan survey** and come up with a new survey.

**Issues discussed:** Larry wondered why some questions **related to, during, and after the pandemic**. Andrea explained other towns have done it and it gives more information. Larry thought we should **focus on what the townspeople want next going forward**.

**Response issues:** David noted keeping the survey as direct and simple as possible would enhance the response we get from it. David and Larry noted that the information taken from the survey is used to inform the Action Plan. Joan asked what **rate of response we got from the survey in 2014**. David said it was 13% which was considered great. Joan thought 13% was not good at all. Jim said we also use the survey to justify action we take. Andrea wondered if our experience over the last 7 years would change our survey questions. Jim said Norm had made some recreation related changes based on his past 7 years experience.

**CPA questions in the survey:** Kimberley wondered if questions related to the CPA would be allowed in our survey because it will be on the ballot in November at town elections. She suggested we could craft questions that didn't directly refer to the CPA.

Andrea asked what we **would want to highlight from the last Action Plan**. Larry said although we encouraged other boards to work on action items they did not embrace these items over time which limited what we could do without the other committees engaging on their end. **Because of this Larry thought we should focus on things we could accomplish as the Open Space Committee alone**. Larry told the group we should be proud of what we've accomplished regardless of things not accomplished because of lack of buy in from other committees. **Larry also suggested FRCOG might facilitate collaboration between towns' Open Space Committees**. Kimberley said that was a great idea to have a yearly collaborative meeting. She also noted that Buckland has no standing OSC. Jim told us the Deerfield River Watershed Council is working on several collaborative projects such as a trail that spans a number of towns. Charlemont however is one town that does not seem to engage with the others.

**Kimberley and Andrea will follow up with the Planning Board to see if there are planning and zoning items that have been approved or rejected since our 2014 plan.** Jim noted a lot of what the Planning Board is involved with does not relate to Open Space. Kimberley said different rules that have been passed in town may bring up some questions for the survey. **Kimberley and Andrea both agreed with Larry that our goals are still valid and don't necessarily need updating.** Kimberley suggested there could be an executive summary created that would give an overview of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

**Funding issues--**Larry questioned if money had been approved for work on the town master plan. **Kimberley will ask Peggy Sloan about this.** Larry asked if there are funds available to do a mailed survey to 800 households as well as an internet based survey. Andrea will call a subcommittee meeting. She said the town of Wendall's expense for a paper survey was about \$1,000. Kimberley wondered if the OSC has any funds available to use. Larry informed them we have no budget but we might get some funding from the Woodlands Grant. Kimberley and Andrea will fine tune the expense for the survey. Andrea said piggy backing with other mailings might work and announcing the survey on the E911 network might be helpful. The town of Wendall recently had a 40% return on their survey over 200 returned out of 500 distributed. Larry stressed a simplified survey would reduce the cost and enhance the return. Kimberley and Andrea will return with us on July 25th.

**Andrea said they will be ready with a preliminary survey for our July meeting. Kimberley thought September was still a good time to implement the survey.**

## **Trail Status Update**

**Wooded Loop Trail** - Helen Paine will return on July 10th and Jim and the Paines will hike across their land to Summit Road on Route 2. Jim said to keep in mind it is a rigorous overgrown hike. There is a logging road to get to the proposed trail but from there it is quite overgrown.

**Riverside Trail** - A question was posed if we could extend the Woodlands Partnership Grant. Larry filed with the state to move \$14,000 to extend into next year. The commissioner needs to approve this by June 30th.

**Tower Trail** - Jim has a **proposal to print a map and brochure** which would be roughly \$392 for 2,500 copies. Larry wondered if we needed to print more because it is so popular but Jim said we may need to update the map and brochure. Jim thinks 2,500 is a good number for now. Larry reported we have enough money in our revolving fund to pay for the printing. David moved we spend the money on the brochure printing, Jim seconded the motion approved unanimously. Jim will get the information to the printer.

## **CPA Update**

The CPA will be on the town ballot in November. There will be a debriefing meeting tomorrow night June 28th at 7pm concerning the CPA.

## OSC Membership

David said we have vacancies and no one looking to come on board. Joan will be talking to Laurie Wheeler and she thinks Peggy Warwick, who is a friend of Cynthia's, would be a good addition to the committee. Larry will follow up with Peggy. David questioned how we might get the word out that we have vacancies and welcome interested applicants. Larry suggested we should put it on the survey. Larry had talked to Cynthia about rejoining the committee but she declined due to her busy schedule.

## Other News

Jim said we are **partnering with the Deerfield River Watershed Council on the upcoming beach hike and Larry thought we should put on article in the Greenfield Recorder**. Jim said it is on the Watershed's website and ten people would probably be an ideal size group. Larry suggested putting it in The Recorder and including a limited registration. Jim thought that might be better done on the Wooded Loop Extension Trail.

## Liaison Reports

No committee liaisons were present at this meeting to make any reports.

Jim told the group the Boy Scouts had done some printings on waterproof paper that they had posted outdoors and they continue to look like they are new.

Next meeting Monday July 25th.

Motion to adjourn by Joan Greenfield seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned 8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Dwight