

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 12/20/2023 **MINUTES APPROVED 1/22/24**

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, Joan Lapierre, Nina Talayco, Laurie Wheeler, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Joel Dwight, Jim Perry

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. This meeting is being recorded on Zoom.
Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem. New Agenda Items - None

Minutes of the 11/27/23 meeting reviewed and accepted as presented. Motion to accept by Norm Beebe, seconded by Joan Lapierre. Minutes accepted unanimously as presented.

Ongoing business

- **OSRP revision** - Andrea sent out a revised Section 9 from the subcommittee. Norm said the subcommittee did some editing and condensing. Larry suggested tabling Section 9 for now and going over it in detail later so it could be sent on to the State.
- **OS Action Plan Map** - The subcommittee doesn't think Andrea has finished with it yet. Larry noted the map is a State requirement. Jim suggested the font in the text boxes is extremely small. Larry said it is small but readable in hard copy. Larry suggested everyone look at the map and send comments to Andrea before the Jan meeting.

Two action items for the Jan meeting –

- Go over Section 9 and flag priority items.
- Go over map as described above.

Larry called for any other items for the draft OSRP. There were none.

- **Mill Road Survey** - Jim spoke with the surveyor whose work should be done. But Jim hasn't heard back from him yet.
- **Brush cutting on Bridge St River overlook** - The project is complete and looks great. We have an invoice from Canepari Landscaping for \$1900.00. Motion to approve the invoice by Jim Perry, seconded by Nina Talayco. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Gardner Falls Recreation Plan**- Jim reported that the upper portion of the Wilcox Hollow rebuild survived the recent rainfall. But on the lower flat area there is about 35 feet near the end that washed out.
- **Wooded Loop Trail** - The Trail is in great shape, thanks to Garth and Jim. A lot of it is currently flooded.
- **Fire Tower Trail** – Jim reported that someone has smashed off two directional signs and had thrown a rock at the 1909 granite marker that is built into the Tower sign. There is a new picnic table there. Jim maintained the water bars on the Trail and they held up pretty well against the recent storm.
- **CPA** - Joan reported the first meeting was last week. They elected Chair and Vice Chair. All the members will be attending a 2 hour session to learn the details of how things work. She feels the members are a nice cross section of the town. Joan will send out a link so members can attend the informational meeting on Zoom.
- **Master Plan update** Larry asked John about a Master Plan development project. John explained it is a large task and has to be done in conjunction with Buckland. They will be searching out funding in the future for this work. Larry said we could send a letter of support for using DLTA funds to support the development of a Master Plan. Jim wondered what the purpose of an updated Master Plan would be? John said he would bring it up at the next Planning Board meeting but they have a lot of other things

going on now. Larry thought a new Master Plan could integrate all the Plans, such as OSRP, CPA, Municipal Vulnerability, etc. John said updating is recommended but doesn't really do anything to make more funding available to the town. John suggested we all look over the current Master Plan which is 194 pages and it is on the Town website. Laurie will send a link to access the 1999 Master Plan.

- **Town Newsletter** - Jim's article for the Jan Newsletter on ice crampons has been sent in and he is working on the article for Feb. Larry recalled Peggy was going to be working on an article on plants and the winter landscape for March.

New Business - None

Committee Reports

- **Ag Commission** report was sent in by the Ag Commission and Larry read it to the group.
- **Conservation Commission** - No liaison present.
- **Planning Board** - They looked at the draft ORSP about the parts involving the Planning Board. They talked about the Bylaw concerning trails. John read the highlights of that Bylaw. John wondered what the OSC felt should be done about the Bylaw. Joel suggested that it is burdensome and unnecessary and should just be done away with. ***Motion made to recommend Planning Board eliminate the Bylaw.*** Motion made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe. Unanimous recommendation to eliminate that Bylaw. Planning Board will talk about and it will eventually need a public hearing.

The Planning Board is also looking into **Food Truck Bylaws and Flood Plain Storm Water Drainage Management**. There could also be changes to subdivision rules and regulations. Larry will draft a letter concerning the Trail Bylaw.

- **Recreation Committee** - Norm reports they have come up with a new fee structure. Under 16 years old is free, was previously \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for under 16. Now \$5.00 for over 16, non-Shelburne resident. \$2.00 for Shelburne resident, and every one under 16 is free. Pickle ball is now charging a monthly rate of \$35 so participants don't have to pay each time they attend.

Cowell Gym - They have ongoing maintenance and cleaning issues. They are going to look at prices for cleaners. The ADA compliant bleachers will need repair.

Ping Pong is coming along and they will be adding lighting.

They are still looking for a Cowell Director.

Whit Sanford and the YMCA are looking at a program called Silver Sneakers and the Rec Committee is looking for clarity if it has to be for YMCA members only.

Public comments: New Business: none

Correspondence- none

Visitor and Guest Comments- none

Announcements and Reminders

Buckland Trail Summit- Larry told the group there is an upcoming Buckland Trail Summit February 3, 2024. He thought it would be a good way to collaborate with Buckland and work on another OSC. Jim will be giving a presentation there. Shelburne has been a part of this before but Covid slowed it down. Norm is going to try and attend the Summit as well.

Next meeting date- Monday January 22, at 7pm by Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight Secretary pro tem