

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting 1/22/2024 **Approved 3/25/24**

Members present: Norm Beebe, Nina Talayco, Jim Perry, Joan LaPierre , David Schochet, Larry Flaccus, Laurie Wheeler, John Wheeler

Guests: none

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

- The meeting is being conducted on Zoom, and is being recorded.
- Nina Talayco appointed Secretary pro tem
- New Agenda items not anticipated at time of posting: None

Minutes for Dec 20, 2023 meeting: Motion to Accept as Presented: Jim Perry; second Joan LaPierre; approved as presented by unanimous vote.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- **Open Space and Rec Plan Revision:** Andrea sent an email with requests for input on several items. Department of Conservation Services (DCS) sent a document to Andrea in early January with several comments about items we need to address before final approval can be granted. Larry read the DCS letter and listed their requests.

The committee reviewed the table Andrea sent and asked whether anyone on the committee can fill in some of the empty cells – re: Condition, recreation potential, grant type used to renovate property. Jim will send the table to committee members with new columns included. Members with access to the requested information are asked to fill in these cells. Larry will contact Andrea to discuss the other items raised by the state to come up with a plan to gather the information the state has requested.

- **Mill Street Survey:** Jim has not had contact with the contractor since the start of the survey. Larry will contact him for an update.
- **Gardner Falls Recreation Plan:** No updates
- **Trails:** Jim went up Tower Trail and replaced broken golf tees on the trees. Hopefully the new plastic tees will last longer than the original wooden tees.
- **Wooded Loop Trail:** Landowner’s daughter is moving back to Shelburne and will continue to have stewardship of the land on which the Wooded Loop Trail is located.”
- **CPA:** Joan reported the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPA) has convened and is beginning to outline the application process. By Nov 2024 we will know how much the town get from the state. Something in the neighborhood of a \$ 90K match is expected – this year the town can expect a 100% match due to the 3% levy.

- **Open Space Committee article for Town Newsletter** Jim wrote a background piece about the committee for the Feb newsletter. March article is being developed by Jim and Peggy. April and May are open for suggestions. June and July are covered.

NEW BUSINESS

- **DLTA** Selectboard is asking for ideas for requests for Division Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funds. This was the source for 2022 and 2023 funds used to pay Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for the Open Space Plan update. Jim suggested we may want to ask for funds to pay FRCOG for the additional information requested by DCS on Open Space and Recreation Plan. John advised we look at the due date for this request – deadline may be sometime this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Ag Commission:** no liaison present
- **Conservation Commission:** no liaison present
- **Planning Board:** John W reported that the next PB meeting is later this week – will be considering by-laws, and some likely articles that will be proposed:
 1. recommending hiking by law will be eliminated. John let committee know that Open Space Comm supports elimination.
 2. food trucks – considering establishing a definition of what a food truck is, and perhaps a registration process.
 3. Resiliency and sustainability: 2 of the members are on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) committee. There are no details about this yet.

There will probably be an informational meeting and a public hearing scheduled ahead of the town meeting. John will share these dates when they are set.

- **Recreation Committee:** Norm reported John Walsh has been appointed as the Cowell Gym director until June 2024.

Ice Skating: Stephan is trying to get the rink up and running – he thinks we may have a nice ice rink for the next few weeks.

Cowell Gym has established a \$35 monthly fee for pickle ball. They had 24 users in Dec and 27 in Jan.

Silver Sneakers Fitness is being offered at the High School.

Cowell Youth Basketball has been renamed Cowell Youth Winter Program – to reflect that fact that soccer and other sports are a part of this program, not just basketball.

Norm was at the CPA meeting: Cowell Gym is a historical bldg. – and may qualify for funding for that reason, but not for its role in recreation.

Correspondence: None

Visitor and guest comments: None

Announcements

- **Buckland Trail Summit:** taking place on Feb 3. Jim will give a presentation. We may need a trails maintenance team.

Next meeting will take place on Feb 26, 2023.

Adjournment: motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norm Beebe; meeting adjourned 8:25pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Nina Talayco, Secretary Pro Tem