

TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS  
Open Space Committee Discussion Session Notes **Approved 3/25/24**

Monday, February 26, 2024 TIME: 7:00pm – 9:00 pm  
Held via Zoom Teleconference.  
The meeting was recorded.

**Present:** Norman Beebe, Jim Perry, Larry Flaccus, Nina Talayco, Joan LaPierre, Laurie Wheeler.  
Joel Dwight joined at 7:33 p.m.  
Norm left at 7:37 p.m.  
**No guests were present.**

*\*Wherever OSC is written, please note that the acronym stands for Open Space Committee.*

**Called to order** at 7:23 p.m., following glitches in the Zoom technology that required starting the meeting later than posted.

***\*Because of the technical issue which delayed the start of the meeting and may have prevented some members and members of the public from accessing the meeting, Larry Flaccus sent an email on Feb. 26, 2024 stating that he is taking the following actions:***

- *“Because some members, and members of the public may have been unable to participate in the meeting, I am voiding all actions we took with votes, and we will revote those items at our next meeting.”*
- *“I have removed the zoom link from all future meetings on the website and will repost those meetings with a new link.”*
- *“I realized I overlooked Laurie’s agenda item regarding the Annual Report - -therefore would you each send me an email with your suggestions about our key accomplishments this year and I will compile a draft report for our review at our next meeting.”*

Laurie Wheeler was appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

**Minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting** were reviewed and accepted with amendments. *(Vote voided due to technical issues; will be revoted at next meeting.)*

Motion to approve made by Jim Perry, seconded by Joan LaPierre.  
The changes to the minutes are as follows:

- Jim requested that acronyms be spelled out, for clarity: DCS is Department of Conservation Services; CPA is Community Preservation Act; DLTA is District Local Technical Assistance; OSRP is Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Change the last sentence under Wooded Loop Trail from “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.”

## **On-going Business**

- Open Space and Recreation Plan Revision.
  - FRCOG's Andrea Donlon and Larry have been communicating about further revisions to our Open Space and Recreation Report draft. Andrea is hoping to use unexpended DLTA funds to finish up the report. Our 2022 and 2023 DLTA funds were used for the Open Space Plan update.
  - Specific comments on point 5 in the Analysis of Needs, suggest that we identify special groups, such as teens. Larry asked the group for ideas, but none were offered by the group at the time. The Recreation Committee has year-round programming for teens and youth.
  - No vote taken.
  - Larry will follow up with Andrea.
  
- Mill Road Survey
  - The surveyor, Eric Feindel, Green River Surveys, says that the survey will be completed shortly.
  - The Woodlands Partnership Grant status came up at this point. It was noted that two of them are still open. For the 2021 grant, funds will be used for the survey of Mill Rd; and funds went toward the clearing of invasives and brush from the embankment along Bridge St.
  
- The following items came up during the discussion of this portion of the agenda.
  - Jim Perry expressed a need to purchase lumber for trail bridging and sign post materials.
  - Norm is working on the project to regrade the ballfield using Woodland Partnership 2024 Grant funds. He has spoken with Canepari's Landscaping and has a deadline of June 30, 2024 to finish the project.
  
- Gardner Falls Recreation Plan – no update
  
- A Buckland Trail Summit was held on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jim gave a presentation. It was well attended. Topics including, where trails should go, and collaboration between the two towns of Buckland and Shelburne were discussed. It was noted that Buckland does not have an Open Space Committee, and that Chris Skelly of Buckland is a person very involved in this project.
  
- Trail status updates – no update
  
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee – Joan - no update, as CPA Committee will be meeting later this week. Larry mentioned that it would be good for the OSC to begin looking at projects the OSC could apply for with the CPA money. Joan said that the CPA committee would be setting budgets soon. One project idea was to work the owners of Mayhew Steel Quonset hut at the bottom of Deerfield Ave. to clean up that area of

possible hazardous waste adjacent to Town property at the start of the Riverside Trail along the river.

- Material for Two Town Newsletter & Open Space Committee Hikes
  - Article written by Peggy Warwick in February for the March edition of Two Town News has been sent to the editors of Two Town News.
  - Article to be written by Peggy in March for the April edition.
  - Article to be written by Peggy in April for the May edition outlining a **May 5th** nature hike on the Wooded Loop Trails.
  - Article to be written by Jim Perry in May for the June edition outlining a **June 2nd** hike to the Audubon High Ledge.
  - Article to be written by Cynthia Boettner in June for the July edition outlining a **July ( )** hike and tour of invasive plant species in Buckland.
  - Writing articles in July, August, and September for later hikes, is still open.

### **New business**

- Larry Flaccus explained that he and Susan are in the process of establishing 150 acres of their farm under a Conservation Restriction in perpetuity. It is the first significant farm in Shelburne on Route 2 as well as the first open space as people enter Shelburne. “It sets the tone” for the town. He also noted that he and Susan are not selling “just yet”, although they will be moving.
- This led to discussion about finding new members, some younger members, some who could help work the trails. As Larry will need to resign from the OSC when he moves, someone will need to step into his role.
- It was suggested by a committee member that an article be done, when their move actually happens, about Larry’s contributions to the OSC.

**No Reports/updates from Committee Liaisons, as none were present.**

**No Correspondence**

**No Visitor/Guest Comments**

**Announcements/Reminders**

**Next Meeting:** March 25, 2024

**Meeting adjourned at 7:56.** Jim Perry made the motion. It was seconded by Nina Talayco.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Wheeler

Secretary Pro Tem