

TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS
Open Space Committee Minutes 3/25/2024 **Approved 4/22/24**

Monday, March 25, 2024
Held via Zoom Teleconference.
The meeting was recorded.

Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schocket, Nina Talayco, Joan La Pierre, Laurie Wheeler, Jim Perry, John Wheeler, Norm Beebe, Joel Dwight

Guests: Andrea Dolon from FRCOG and Eric Feindel with the Green River Survey company

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem

Action: Larry voided any actions from our February meeting because of connection issues with the Zoom call. Some committee members and members of the public could not get in on the call.

Minutes:

- January 22nd minutes were revoted and accepted unanimously as presented. Motion made by Norm Beebe seconded by Joan La Pierre.
- February 26th discussion meeting minutes taken by Laurie Wheeler. Motion to accept by Joan La Pierre seconded by Jim Perry. Minutes accepted with one amendment and one spelling correction with Norm Beebe and John Wheeler abstaining.

Ongoing business

- **Mill Road Survey:** Eric Feindel of Green River Survey Company spoke about the work he has done regarding access to the town owned Lillian Davenport lot, easements and placement of the River Trail. He spoke about historic maps and layouts dating back to 1845 and the location of the Mill Road. He suggested a 20 foot wide access based on the center of the Mill Road. Eric thinks the opportunity for trail access is quite positive and requested to contact the Shelburne Town Counsel for clarification and opinion on a few points. Larry will contact the Select Board for permission for Eric to contact Town Counsel.
- **OSRP revision update** with Andrea Donlan. Andrea received comments from several members. Norm will find out what grant monies have been used at the Cowell gym over the last ten years. Andrea added a little bit about environmental

justice and plant and animal communities. She also included a reference to a document as requested by Larry.

- DCS (Department Conservation Services) requested something be included about special groups such as teenagers and Andrea read the portion she created to cover that. Andrea reviewed several other parts where she had written about town owned properties.
 - Jim reviewed the properties that Woodland Partnership grant monies were spent on. Larry pointed out the Lillian Davenport parcel was traditionally used for recreation and had the town tennis courts on it.
 - John spoke briefly about the trail bylaw which will be coming up for removal at the town meeting and will require a two-thirds vote to remove it from the bylaws.
 - Norm will send Andrea the amount of energy grant money used at the Cowell gym. Andrea will be sending everything out the DCS with answers to their questions soon. She told us the Town can apply for grants that require a current OSRP (Open Space and Recreation Plan) because we have preliminary approval.
- **Gardner Falls Recreation Plan-** Jim said there is nothing new at this time.
 - **Trail Updates-** Jim informed the group there has been severe erosion on the Tower Trail. He has been working on diverting waterflow with pressure treated water bars. If these are successful, he would like to install more of them.
 - Jim said Buckland is trying to start a nonprofit trails association similar to what Ashfield has so they can apply for grants. Members of the Buckland trail group will be welcomed to help Jim on our trails to learn more about trail creation and maintenance.
 - Jim put together a budget for trail improvements of \$950 with a complete list of materials needed for this year. Larry said there is money in the Woodland Partnership grant that could cover \$1,000 worth of materials and the work would have to be completed by June. Items on the list of materials include pressure treated lumber, sign posts and anchors, blaze paint, etc.
- Motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 from Woodland Partnership Grant*** made by Norm Beebe. Seconded by Laurie Wheeler. Approved unanimously with one abstention.

- **Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee-** Joan La Pierre reports Andrea Donlan is working on the CPA committee's plan. They have completed the vision statement and should have an application form and process ready by October. Will Flanders was talking with Whately's CPA and suggested Shelburne could get a total of approximately \$104,000 and 10% of that would go to open space and recreation.
- **Town Newsletter-** Jim said Peggy put an article about ticks in for April and is working on an article to put in for May and planning a wooded loop hike.
- **Woodland Partnership Grant Status-** Norm is working on a ballfield grant and will create a new infield and improved outfield at the Arms ballfield. It will be set up for softball.

New Business:

- The **MVP committee** (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) is requesting one of our members to join their group. Laurie Wheeler will volunteer to serve on that committee.
- **Woodland Partnership Grant 2024**

We can apply for \$20,000 for 2024-2025. Larry is looking for ideas for projects that could be funded by this grant. Larry will send a copy of the application out for everyone to look at.

- Norm and Jim wondered if this grant money could be used to purchase easements at the river trail. Larry doesn't know if we will be at a point where we can approach the Selectboard
- Jim has sent a note to Garth to find out about the brush control equipment he has and if that needs to be replaced to take care of the Wooded Loop Trails.

Annual Report: Larry is looking for suggestions for items to place in the annual report. Jim will find the information he sent to Nina.

Committee Reports-

- **Planning Board-** John reported on the Planning Board efforts to eliminate the municipal and public trail bylaw. John also said they are trying to make the ZBA the special permit granting body. He also said the Robert Spencer property has been sold and they are planning on taking down the building that is presently on it and putting up a new one.
- **Recreation Committee-** Norm reported the rec committee did not meet last month.

- **Agricultural Committee** Report- No liaison present
- **Conservation Commission** Report- No liaison present

- **Correspondence**- none
- **Visitor and Guest Comments**- none
- **New Business**: none

Next meeting date- April 22nd via Zoom

Motion to adjourn: *made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry*

Meeting adjourned 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted by Joel Dwight Secretary pro tem