

TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS
Open Space Committee Minutes 4/22/2024 **Draft minutes**

Meeting called to order by Larry Flaccus at 7:09pm.

- Meeting Recorded on Zoom.

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Peggy Warwick, Nina Talayco, Joan La Pierre, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe and Joel Dwight

Laurie Wheeler sent regrets and will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Guests: None

Administrative Notes:

- Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem
- Larry called for additional agenda items.
 - 1- request for us to comment on the Deerfield River watershed.
 - 2- One year verses three year terms for OSC members.
- **Minutes from the March 25, 2024 OSC meeting** were reviewed and accepted unanimously after one amendment. Motion to accept made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry.

Ongoing Business

- **Open Space and Recreation plan update:** Andrea Donlan of FRCOG was not able to attend tonight's meeting but is working on finishing updates.
- **Gardner Falls Recreation Plan:** Jim met with DCR concerning the Wilcox Hollow Road. The power company has repaired the upper portion of the road. Jim will be able to meet with the DCR engineer concerning their portion of repair to the road.
- **Trail Status Update:** Jim went out on the Mohegan Mohawk Trail on the Franklin Land Trust property and removed several fallen trees. Jim had also done more water bar work on the Tower trail.
- **Community Preservation Act Committee:** Joan and the rest of the CPA committee met last Tuesday but did not have a quorum and so they couldn't do any official business. Their budget will be article 18 on the town meeting warrant in May.
- **Town Newsletter:** Peggy announced a hike which will take place on the wooded loop trails on May 5th. Jim will put a copy of Peggy's article on the Deerfield River Watershed Facebook page so others can see it.
- **Woodland Partnership Grant Status:** Larry requested from the select board that Eric Findel who has done survey work for the river trail be authorized to meet with town council regarding easments. That request has been approved and Jim and Norm with contact Eric and attend the meeting as well. Norm can setup the meeting with Donna McNichol the town council if Jim and Eric can come up with a good time to meet.
 - **A motion was made** to reimburse Jim for trail maintenance and signage material in the amount of \$993.58. Motion made by Norm Beebe. Seconded by Joan La Pierre. These funds are coming out of the 2021 Woodland Partnership grant. Motion passed with one abstention.
 - **A motion was made** by Nina Talayco and seconded by Norm Beebe to approve an invoice from Eric Findel from Green River survey for the amount of \$4900. Motion passed unanimously. This leaves a balance of \$6,703 remaining for use on the 2021 Woodland Partnership grant.

- **Town Report:** Larry noted that we missed the deadline for our portion of the town report so he will print it and it will be available for people to pick up at the town meeting. Jim sent Nina notes which may be useful to Larry. She will consolidate them and send them on to Larry.

New Business

Road signs

- Jim reported there are three signs on Route 2 across from the Sweetheart Restaurant that have faded. He has been approved to replace them. The signs point out features of the area. The Selectboard is deciding at their meeting tonight about funding of that project. Larry said we could use Woodland Partnership grant monies to replace the three signs if the select board does not want to fund them. The cost of renewing the three signs will be less than \$1,000. Jim has three quotes for the work and is working on getting a fourth quote. Larry noted the money would have to be spent before the end of the fiscal year.
- **A motion was made by** Jim Perry to authorize up to \$1,000 to be used to replace the three tourism directional signs. Seconded by Peggy Warwick. Motion carried unanimously.

Member terms

- Nina questioned why some members of the OSC are appointed for one year and some for three years. Larry explained that all terms are for 3 years. And that a shorter term may be that appointment to fill out a term of someone who has left the OSC. Terms are overlapping so that peoples service is staggered. Nina is questioning continuing on with the OSC wondering if she has enough to contribute. Larry told the group David's term is up in June and he will not be returning. Larry said we have a need for new people and that he will be leaving at some point in the future as well. We will also need a member of the OSC to serve on the Woodland Partnership Committee when Larry leaves. Jim will volunteer to be the OSC liaison for the Deerfield River Watershed association. They are developing a watershed based plan that covers the river from Shelburne and Buckland down to where it joins the Connecticut River.

Woodland Partnership Implementation Grant 2025

Grant application is coming up for the 2025 Woodland Partnership grant. Norm is working on an application. Potential projects for the Woodland Partnership Grant Monies for 2025: Norm said the tennis courts at the Cowell Gym were renewed in 2017 and now have hairline cracks. They are looking at \$12,000 to clearcoat the tennis courts and line the new pickleball courts. The town crew can remove the grass and supply a surface that would be safe to travel on. Norm can write a grant to deal with the cracks and paint the lines. He could also write the grant for an additional \$8,000 for use on the trails. This would provide somewhat flexible trail funding for the OSC.. He is looking for OSC support and will need to meet the May 9th deadline. Norm will write the grant and send it out to the members for review.

Larry told Norm there are some monies left in our 2021 grant that could be used on the ball field.

A motion was made to support the Recreation Committee for this proposed 2025 grant. Moved by Nina Talayco; seconded by Jim Perry. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Liaison Reports

- **Recreation Committee Report:** Norm Reports Canaperi Landscaping will do the job of fixing the softball infield and also work a bit on the outfield to improve it. If the select board approves that work they should be able to start fairly soon.

- ***A motion was made to authorize up to \$5,000*** for the ball field renovation project if needed. Motion made by Jim Perry. Seconded by Nina Talayco. Unanimously approved. Norm also reported they have developed a revised code of conduct for people using recreational resources and includes a protocol to resolve code of conduct violations.
- **Conservation Commission Report:** No liaison present. Jim said there is a bridge that needs replacement on the Mohican Mohawk Trail and he will talk about that with Norm Davenport.
 - ***A motion was made to expend up to \$5,000*** to support this project. Moved by Norm Beebe. Seconded by Joan La Pierre. Motion passed unanimously. The money would need to be spent in time to get the reimbursement before the end of June.
- **Ag Commission Report:** No liaison present.
- **Planning Board Report:** No liaison present.
 - Larry reminded the group of the Town Meeting article for the Planning Board to remove the regulations concerning municipal trails.

Correspondence: None

Visitor and Guest Comments: None

Reminders:

- On Thursday April 25th the Franklin Land Trust and the Woodland Partnership will have a workshop for woodland owners.
- On May 17th there will be a discussion and Q&A in Williamstown concerning conservation of woodland properties.
- On May 4th there will be a walk in the Hawley woods sponsored by the Woodland Partnership. The Woodland Partnership also has a new website.

Due to Memorial Day Holiday, the next meeting date will need to be rescheduled.

Motion to adjourn made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry, approved unanimously.

- **Meeting adjourned 8:03pm**

Respectfully submitted by Joel Dwight Secretary Pro Tem