

TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS
Open Space Committee Minutes 8/26/24 **Draft Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Norm Beebe at 7:06pm.

Members Present: Norm Beebe, Nina Talayco, Jim Perry, Peggy Warwick, Joan LaPierre, Paul Hollings

Members absent: Larry Flaccus is ill, Norm Beebe is chairing the meeting. Joel Dwight sent regrets.

Guests: Lara Radyish

Administrative Notes:

- Meeting Recorded on Zoom.
- Nina Talayco appointed Secretary Pro Tem
- Norm called for additional agenda items. None
- **Minutes from the July 22, 2024 Open Space Committee** were reviewed. Jim asked that we avoid acronyms in meeting minutes such as OSRP (Open Space and Recreation Plan), CPA/C (Community Preservation Act/Committee) MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Committee) FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments) and OSC (Open Space Committee). Add Trail Regional School to “Mohawk” under nature walk post, Add details to Woodlands Partnership. Correct Beebe spelling. Next meeting date corrected to 8/26/24. After minor edits and spelling corrections the minutes were moved to accept: ***Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Peggy Warwick, seconded by Joan LaPierre and accepted unanimously.***
- Selectboard adopted a new committee membership policy that applies to all committees including OSC: up to one Open Space Committee member does not need to be a Shelburne resident. Buckland residents Chris Skelly and Andrea Donlon were mentioned as possible candidates. Jim will explore their interest.
- Common acronyms used in these minutes:
 - OSRP (Open Space and Recreation Plan),
 - CPA/C (Community Preservation Act/Committee)
 - MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Committee)
 - FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments)
 - OSC (Open Space Committee).

Ongoing business:

- **Woodland Partnership 2025 Grant approved.** Norm reported \$9,000 was awarded for trail improvements, but \$13,000 was not approved for tennis court improvements. Norm will manage the grant.
- **Mill Rd Survey** - No updates. Norm will contact the surveyor to see what progress has been made
- **Trail Status Updates:**
 - Jim has a volunteer who is brushing out the Ridge trail.
 - Jim is preparing an order of materials to mark the trail between the Tower and Audubon land.
 - When he has time, Jim will go to the Conservation Commission to get permission to install bridges on the Red Loop Trail and Wilcox Hollow Trail.

- Wilcox Hollow Road was rebuilt by Eversource recently but the summer rains are washing out the work that was done. Eversource doesn't want to maintain the road – not clear who is responsible for maintenance.
- Jim is working on a new Loop Trail map which now shows the new Red Loop Trail. (Draft forwarded to landowner Margaret and farm manager Helen Payne.) This will be turned into a new brochure this winter. The trails are not yet included on AllTrails.com.
- **Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee:** Joan LaPierre reported that there are printed copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan available in the Town Office. The CPA Committee held a public meeting and presented the CPA plan to the community. Forms to apply for grants are posted on the website and available in Town Hall. September 15, 2024 is the deadline for applications to be submitted to the Town. Norm suggested we might have a special meeting before that date to consider how to use the funds for Open Space and Recreation projects. Norm will pass this info on to Larry as he might have some ideas for use of the funds.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee (MVP):** Open Space Committee does not have a representative member. We are still looking for a volunteer to represent the Open Space Committee on the MVP committee.
- **OSC Material for Town Newsletter:** Peggy notes that we've submitted hike announcements and some public interest notices (ie: *How to Avoid Tick Bites*). Peggy sent notices to Arms and Buckland libraries about the Wooded Loop trail hike this weekend. On Sunday September 1st Peggy will lead a walk on the Wooded Loop Trail to look at late season flowering plants. The group will meet on the steps of the Arms library at 9:00am.
- **New Business:** Jim reports that fill used in road work along Old Greenfield Road was contaminated with Japanese Knotweed rootlets and other invasive species which are now spreading along the road. OSC member Garth Lapointe, Connie Clark and other residents have been talking about what to do about this and have brought it to the attention of the Selectboard as well as the OSC. Jim states that use of herbicides *Roundup* and *Rodeo* are the only effective way to control in various habitats. Group considers how the Open Space Committee might address this topic. Peggy will gather materials so we have more information on the issue and we will discuss possible next actions in next month's meeting.
- **Committee Liaison Reports:**
 - Agricultural Committee- no liaison present
 - Conservation Committee- no liaison present
 - Planning Board- Paul Hollings, a new Planning Board member, will be replacing John Wheeler as the Planning Board liaison to the OSC. Planning Board is working on 3 issues: short term rental bylaws, mobile food establishments, and bylaws for large battery storage for solar arrays.
 - Recreation Committee- Norm reports they have not met in August. (see Woodland Partnership 2025 grant above).
- **Correspondence:** none

- **Visitor/Guest Comments-** none.
- **Announcements/reminders:**
 - Wooded Loop hike Sunday – meet at Arms Library
 - **Next Meeting** – 9/23/24 by Zoom
- ***Motion to adjourn*** made by Jim Perry, Seconded by. Joan LaPierre. Unanimous vote to approve.
 - Meeting adjourned 7:59pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Talayco, Secretary pro tem