

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Open Space Committee Minutes 9/23/24 **Minutes Approved 10/28/24**

**Meeting called to order by Larry Flaccus at 7:00pm.**

**Members Present:** Larry Flaccus, Peggy Warwick, Joan La Pierre, Nina Talayco, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, Norm Davenport, Paul Hollings, Joel Dwight.

**Guests:** Lara Radyish

**Administrative Notes:**

- Meeting Recorded on Zoom.
- Joe Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem
- Larry called for additional agenda items not included on posting. **None**
- **Minutes from the 8/26/24 Open Space Committee** were reviewed and accepted unanimously after a small amendment. **Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Nina Talayco, seconded by Joan LaPierre and accepted unanimously..**
- 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)
  - DRWA (Deerfield River Watershed Association)
- **Ongoing Business**
  - **Invasive species in road fill**

Larry said the Conservation Commission is having a meeting with the Road Superintendent to talk about invasive plants in fill used in road construction. Norm Davenport said the meeting is tomorrow night and several options to control Japanese knotweed will be discussed. The meeting will be by Zoom so anyone can access it. Information is under Conservation Commission on the town website. Larry suggested we attend the meeting, that we not take any action on the matter tonight but put it on the agenda for the next meeting if necessary.
  - **Woodland Partnership Grant 2025:**

Norm reported there are no plans for immediately using grant money now but we may expend some funds on Eric the surveyor for some additional work he is doing on the Mill Road project.

Norm said the total amount of the grant needs to be spent and work completed by June 30th if we don't feel that is doable, we could ask for an extension in May.
  - **Mill Road survey**

Norm spoke with Eric and he is working on the Mill Road project.
  - **Trail Status:**

Jim reports there will be a meeting next Wednesday with Buckland Trails and the National Park Service at 12:00pm at the Mill. It will be an in-person meeting starting with a hike around the mill and then going to a sit-down meeting. Jim has been helping Buckland and they have received a grant through the Park Service.

- **CPA Committee:**

Joan reports the committee met for the turn-in of applications on September 17th. Eight applications were received:

1. Joe Judd applied for the town for renovations at the Hill Cemetery
2. Walkway replacement across from Cora Smith Hall at the Baptist Church lot. It was unclear who was applying for this project so this one was put on the side and a full application will be due on November 17th.
3. Affordable housing project lot next to the bandshell that needs to be prepared to be donated to Habitat for Humanity
4. A double lot on Mechanic Street that needs to be prepared for donation to Habitat for Humanity
5. Buckland Shelburne School applying for funds to renovate the playground closest to the bandshell
6. Shelburne Historical Society would like to purchase a collection of Robert Strong Woodward items
7. Arms Library would like funds to help replace their elevator
8. The Recreation Committee is seeking funding to repair and expand surfaces outside for pickleball and tennis and to construct an outside structure to provide shade

Larry asked if the CPA committee had an idea of how much money might be available. Joan said approximately \$144,000.00 Joan said there is one round of funding per year. The money funded to certain groups such as the Open Space Committee will be held in a special account. (Open Space did not submit an application for this round of funding.) Joan will check with Will Flanders on more details and the amount available for open space projects..

- **MVP Committee:** The Open Space Committee still needs a representative to serve on the MVP Committee

- **Town Newsletter**

Jim wrote an article for the **two-town news** about the tower trail that will appear in the October issue. A recent hike led by Jim and Peggy had two participants and they had a great hike. Peggy met Helen Paine Watt who manages the Woodland Loop Trail property for Foxbard Farm and Helen said her family enjoys the trails there as well. Peggy pointed out the great variety of bird species that nest there and Jim noted how well Garth mows and maintains the trails.

Peggy will come up with an article for the November **two-town news** perhaps on mosses. She also told the group there is a Pioneer Valley Fern Society based in Shutesbury.

- **OSRP:** no news

- **Membership:**

We can now have up to one non-Shelburne resident on the committee. Jim and Larry agreed that it would be great to get someone from Buckland. Peggy said the Arms Library recently recruited board members by putting a notice in the **two-town news** and suggested we could do the same.

- **Deerfield River Wild and Scenic committee**

Larry said the Deerfield River Watershed Association has received a Woodland Partnership grant to pursue a “wild and scenic” designation for the river and is looking for someone to represent Shelburne on the committee working to get the Deerfield River designated as a wild and scenic river. Nina noted there is one opening for a Shelburne resident to serve on that committee and they will have nine meetings between now and spring. Jim said DRWA vice chair Chris Curtis is coordinating the details and they are planning on meeting in Shelburne Falls. Nina suggested Trout Unlimited and Jim agreed that someone from Trout Unlimited would be a good addition to the committee. Nina said she will speak with Terry to see what would be involved with joining. Joan said she might be interested but needs to have more information. Jim said Chris Curtis, vice chair of the Deerfield River Watershed Association may be a good person to speak with about what's involved with joining the committee.

- **Committee Updates:**
  - Agricultural Commission: No liaison present.
  - Conservation Commission: Norm Davenport left the meeting early. Their meeting is tomorrow night by Zoom.
  - Planning Board: Paul Hollings is our new liaison from the Planning Board replacing John Wheeler. Paul reports they are working on three items to have ready for town meeting next May.
    - 1- Regulation of large battery storage systems for solar installations.
    - 2- Regulations for mobile food trucks.
    - 3- Regulation of short term rentals maybe modeling off of what Buckland has done. They will probably have a public hearing regarding this.
  - Recreation Committee: Norm reports they have volunteers who will fill in the cracks in the pickleball and tennis court surfaces. They are also working to expand pickleball courts so basketball and pickleball can be played at the same time. They are considering indoor soccer and basketball shooting. They are looking into a grant to improve the indoor lighting and window shades for the Cowell..
- **Correspondence:** None
- **Visitor and Guest Comments:** None
- **Announcements and Reminders:** Buckland Trails Meeting on Wednesday at the Mill.
- **Next Meeting:** 10/28/2024 on Zoom
- **Motion to adjourn** made by Norm Beebe seconded by Jim Perry. **Meeting adjourned at 7:50.**

Respectfully submitted

Joel Dwight Secretary pro tem