

TOWN OF SHELBURNE, MASSACHUSETTS
Open Space Committee Minutes 10/28/24 *Minutes Approved 11/25/24*

Meeting called to order by Larry Flaccus at 7:04pm.

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, Norm Beebe, Joan Lapierre, Jim Perry, Joel Dwight.

Peggy Warwick sent regrets that she would not be able to attend the meeting.

Guests and visitors: none

Administrative Notes:

- Meeting Recorded on Zoom.
- The corrected numbers to access the Zoom Meeting were posted on the Town website.
- Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem
- Larry called for additional agenda items not included on posting: Jim would like to talk about tree planting at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School.
- **Minutes from the 9/23/24 Open Space Committee** were reviewed and accepted unanimously after a small amendment. ***Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Jim Perry, 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** - Jim attended the Conservation Commission Meeting regarding the road fill. The Cosby's did not want herbicides sprayed on their property. Connie Clarke agreed to allow it. They have treated the invasives and Joan reports the treated area had ideal weather and conditions for it to work. The Cosby material will be covered in the Spring in an attempt to smother it. Joel pointed out a person loading a truck with a machine would very likely not even be aware there was any pieces of plants material and this will continue to be a problem as invasive species are so prevalent nowadays.
 - **Woodland Partnership Grant** - Norm told us there is nothing yet to report and he is waiting to hear back from the surveyor.
 - **Trail Status Updates** - Jim warned it's easy this time of year for hikers to slip on the wet leaves especially on the steeper portions of the trails. Jim is going to contact Garth so they can walk the Wooded Loop Trail and check for any areas needing attention. Buckland held a Trails Meeting but unfortunately the folks they hoped most would attend, did not attend. So, they are going to regroup and try again. Jim said Patriot Hydro never developed the nature trail they had agreed to create. Norm questioned if there was any recourse. Jim said a notice was sent to the Federal Energy Commission (FREC). He has not been able to follow up on that to see if there was any response from the Hydro Company. There are several other things Patriot Hydro is supposed to do as part of their permit that they have so far failed to do.

- **CPA Committee** - Joan Sent a list of the applicants for CPA money to the OSC members. Three requests would come out of the Open Space and Recreation portion of the funds - a new playground at the elementary school, a new sidewalk to the Farmers Market, and projects at the pickle ball court. The CPA is meeting with the applicants to help them fill out their final applications, which are due by Nov 17, 2024.

Joan thought the structure of the CPA, having a member of each town committee, would represent the opinions of those committees. Norm indicated it may not be working out that way. Norm will speak to the Recreation Committee representative, that person should be representing the actions and preferences of the Committee. However this is not the case. Joan will speak with Will Flanders and see what he knows about the process. There will be a meeting of the CPA Oct. 29, 2024 in the Town Hall.

- **MVP Committee** - No news and we are still looking for a volunteer representative from our committee.
- **Deerfield River Watershed Wild and Scenic Committee** – DRWA is putting together a group to work on the designation of the Deerfield River as a wild and scenic river. Joan would like to serve on that committee and the first meeting is Nov. 20, 2024.
 - Larry called for a vote to have Joan Lapierre's name put forth to the Select Board to be Shelburne's representative on the committee. ***Motion made by Norm Beebe, Seconded by Jim Perry. Motion passed unanimously.*** Larry will send a note to the Selectboard and Chris Curtis, vice chair of the Deerfield River Watershed Association.
- **Two Town News** - Jim said they have an article for the Nov issue and are looking for a topic for Dec. Joan thought she could do an article about the Deerfield Watershed Committee.
- **Membership** - Nina Talayco has resigned from the OSC. Larry thanked her for her service and referred her to the Selectboard to resign officially as they are the appointing authority.

There is a provision for an appointment for nonresidents to town committees. Jim spoke about this with Skelly's in Buckland but they haven't, as yet, expressed any interest.

New Business

- **Tree planting at BSE** - Jim stopped by BSE school and it looks like a lot of the trees that were planted have died. he is going to get out there and see what may have survived. He will talk with the Woodlands Partnership to see if they want to replant and what to do about the cones on the live trees.

Committee Liaison Reports –

- **The Agriculture Committee** sent forward a report that was sent out to OSC members. The Wheelers are inviting hiking on their property anyone interested can speak with them.
- **Conservation Committee** - No representative present.
- **Planning Board** - No representative present.
- **Recreation Committee** - Norm reports - fences will be put around the compressors at the Cowell Gym to limit noise pollution, the wooden trim on the building will be painted, they are filling cracks in the outdoor paved surfaces, basketball hoop shooting will begin this Winter, they are working on improving their website, crab grass on the infield of the ball field needs to be treated. Larry

suggested contacting Brian Colleren of Ecological Management of So. Deerfield who is treating the invasives on Old Greenfield Rd.

- **Correspondence**
 - - Nina's letter of resignation.
- **Visitor and Guest Comments**
 - - None
- **Next Meeting:** 11/25/2024 on Zoom
- ***Motion to adjourn*** made by Jim Perry, seconded by Joan LaPierre. ***Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm***

Respectfully submitted

Joel Dwight Secretary pro tem