Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting May 27, Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting May 27, 2025

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm

Meeting recorded on Zoom

Joel appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

Members Present: Larry Flaccus, Joan La Pierre, Peggy Warwick, Norman Beebe, Jim Perry, and Joel Dwight

Visitors and Guests: Erika Loomin, Helen Payne Watt, and Ted Sicker

Minutes of the 4/28/2025 meeting reviewed. After a few minor corrections, motion to approve minutes approved by Jim Perry, seconded by Joan LaPierre. Minutes accepted unanimously.

Larry has had two items to add to the agenda regarding the OSRP

Ongoing Business: Trail Status Updates- Jim has been clearing water bars due to the heavy rains. He also reports one routed trail sign has been stolen. He is now trying plastic signs from Amazon and also will replace another damaged sign. Still waiting for drier weather to work on the foot bridge that is planned on the loop trail. Jim is planning on going up to the ridge trail to do a bit of trimming on a tree that had previously fallen. He is also going down to the Wilcox Hollow Road to see what the conditions are there.

CPA- Joan reports they did not have a regular meeting last month. All four projects put forth for CPA funding at town meeting were approved and they are the Arms Library elevator, Cowell gym community bulletin boards, stone repair at the Hill Cemetery, and a new playground at BSE.

Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Designation- Joan sent out information to the members regarding the wild and scenic designation for the Deerfield river on the state level because federal funding has been cut.

Two Town News- An article on hiking had been submitted by Jim. Larry called for ideas for our next newsletter article. Jim will put together an article concerning maintenance of the trails.

Mill Road Survey: Norman reports there is nothing new concerning the Mill Road survey. The surveyor is still working on it. There may be $7600 to roll over from last year’s grant. Motion made for up to $400 from the woodland partnership grant to pay for consulting with the town attorney concerning the road survey. Motion made by Jim Perry, seconded by Norman Beebe. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership- Larry has asked the select board to make our new appointments. Ted Sicker would like to become a member. Ted has been a resident of Shelburne since 2000. He lives on Barnard Road near the Wells Forest. He worked for GBH in Boston and then opened a satellite office in Greenfield. He worked on PBS learning media for schools, did grant writing and management, and a lot of editorial work. He retired from GBH about a year ago and also serves on the board of the Shelburne Free Public Library as treasurer. Helen asked Ted if there are trails in the Wells forest. Ted said there had been trails but the last time it was logged there was no concern shown for them and they were badly damaged. There had been a trail that formed a loop down to the Mohican-Mohawk Trail. Larry proposed that we vote for Ted to become a member of the OSC. Motion made by Norm Beebe, seconded by Jim Perry. The group unanimously approved nominating Ted for membership. Larry will send a letter to the select board for their approval. Larry told the group he is on the Woodland Partnership Board representing Shelburne and is looking for someone to assume his post there. That board meets approximately twice per year and acts mainly in an advisory role. Twenty-one towns are represented on the board and the Woodland Partnership also gives out grants each year. Helen may be interested but would like to learn more about the scope of what is required. She will talk with Larry to learn more about the position. Larry is hoping to resign from that position and Helen may be appointed to that board before our next meeting.

Larry spoke with Andrea Donlon about her serving on the open space committee. She is on the planning board in Buckland and doesn't feel she has time to devote to another project. She suggested there are several people in Buckland that might be willing to join that are interested in starting a open space committee in Buckland.

Open Space and Recreation Plan- The state is preparing to change the interval between new open space and recreation plans from 7 years to 10 years. There will be a change coming in July. They are currently working on the details. Larry said a final copy of our most recent OSRP is not yet on the town website. Ted said he will be able to help get that accomplished after he is appointed to the committee. Larry said there should be a hard copy of the most recent OSRP available in the town office. Ted told the group he has been working with the free public library to make their documents more accessible and he might be able to do that for the OSC as well.

Trail Brochures- Jim has completed printing of new trail brochures but there are some outdated ones that need to be worked on including a general brochure covering all of the trails in Shelburne and the brochure about the walking trail of trees around downtown. Jim wondered if we wanted to get labels for the new trees that had been planted on Bridge Street. Peggy will work with Erika on signs for the new trees. The old signs were obtained from Voss.

Jim reminded us that Garth is now the new town tree warden. Jim said Chris Curtis is on the Deerfield River Watershed Association Board and is interested in the Mohican-Mohawk Trail. Ted said he is familiar with the Mohican-Mohawk Trail and how it connects to the area of the Wells forest. Jim will send Ted Chris Curtis's contact information.

New Business: Jim has worked up a liability form for volunteers to sign before working on projects so the town and committee won't be held responsible for any injuries etcetera. He has spoken with the town manager about it. The town insurer provided the base document. Joan suggested the birth date request on the form be replaced with age for individuals data security purposes.

Committee Liaison Reports:                                              Agricultural Committee- no liaison present.

Conservation Commission- no liaison present

Planning Board- no liaison present

Recreation Committee: Norman reports Clay Connor has been approved by the Selectboard to become the new Cowell Gym director. Maintenance and coating of the outdoor courts was approved at the town meeting. CPA money was also approved to install two community bulletin boards at the Cowell Gym.

Correspondence: None

Visitor and Guest Comments: none

The next meeting will be June 23. Larry will not be a Shelburne resident at that point so we need to think about selecting a new chair.

Motion to adjourn made by Norman Beebe seconded by Jim Perry. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Joel Dwight Secretary Pro Tem. 2025