Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting July 28, 2025

Joan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Meeting being recorded on Zoom.

Members present Joan LaPierre, Peggy Warwick, Helen Watt, Erika Looman, Caroline Wheeler, Larry Flaccus, Norm Beebe, Jim Perry, John Wheeler, Ted Sicker, Joel Dwight

Guests and Visitors - None

Larry let the group know this is his last meeting. He was a founding member of the committee in 1984 and has served for 40 years. He appointed Joan LaPierre as Chair Pro Tem. Joan thanked Larry for his service. Larry said he was very pleased with the accomplishments the committee has made in the years he has served and turned the meeting over to Joan.

The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed, with no discussion. Motion to accept minutes made by Jim Perry. seconded by Norm Beebe. Minutes accepted unanimously as presented with one abstention.

Jim Perry nominated Joan LaPierre to be the new Chairperson. Seconded by Norm Beebe. No discussion. Joan LaPierre elected Chairperson unanimously with herself abstaining. Joan LaPierre nominated Norm Beebe to be Vice Chairperson. Jim Perry seconded. No discussion. Norm Beebe was elected unanimously as Vice Chairperson. Jim Perry nominated Joel Dwight as Secretary. Seconded by Norm Beebe. No discussion. Joel Dwight was elected unanimously as Secretary. Joan LaPierre nominated Jim Perry as Trail Manager. Helen Watt seconded. No discussion Jim Perry elected unanimously as Trail Manager. Joan LaPierre nominated Ted Sicker as Digital Manager. Seconded by Norm Beebe. Ted had some questions relating to computer security. Ted was elected unanimously as Digital Manager. Jim said he has digital records going back to 2017 and can share them with Ted in a digital format. Ted spoke briefly about accessing information. Joan will be designated second for Digital Information.

Trail Status updates: Jim reports Thursday Aug 21 and Friday August 22 a group of volunteers will build the Red Loop Trail foot bridge. Jim has some volunteers but could use more. The project will take about three hours each day, Helen and her son and Peggy are volunteering for Thursday. Joan is volunteering for Friday. Jim is going to pre-assemble as much of the bridge as possible at his home shop this coming Thursday morning, July 31st. Norm will help Jim beginning at 8 am and Peggy will help from 8-10 am. Jim submitted a volunteer liability form to Terry and she will run it by the Town Council, the Town insurance Company, etc.

* Jim is working on a way to identify the new trees which were planted downtown. He will ask Garth when to put the identifying tags on when the trees are pruned.
* The Visitor's Center needed more Village maps. So Jim gave them our Walking Tour maps so we are out of those. Norm will check with Dara on the Woodland Partnership Grant money to see about printing more maps.

River Trail Survey: Norm reports they are currently looking into more information and the survey should be completed this fall. We can then arrange a schedule of events to further the project. Norm will look into the money available for this.

CPA: Joan reports she sent out CPA Meeting Reports to members and that the CPA is starting their next cycle. Work has already begun on the new playground at the Elementary School. The CPA members are reviewing their procedures. There will be an open meeting about CPA funded projects in August. Jim wondered about playground specifics and Joan said that type of information would come from the PTO.

Woodland Partnership: Helen reports she has been appointed as the Shelburne Representative to the Woodland Partnership. She was not able to attend their Annual Meeting but is in contact with them.

Town Newsletter: Jim did not do an August article but suggested one on trail maintenance for September. Erika will work on that article and Ted can edit it. Jim will send newsletter information to Erika. Jim said articles need to be 200 words or less and can include a photograph.

OSC Membership: Caitlyn Slowinski is a new person interested in joining the OSC. She is one of the four people that purchased the farm from Larry and Susan Flaccus, Peggy nominated Caitlyn for membership in the OSC. Jim seconded. No discussion . Nomination passed unanimously. Joan will send a letter to the Select board recommending Caitlyn's appointment.

OSRP: The interval between filing new Open Space and Recreation plans has been lengthened from seven years to ten years. FRCOG is holding a meeting to explain these changes. The Open Space plan is on the Town website. Erika will write an article about that for the Town Newsletter.

The Volunteer Liability Form has been sent out to our members for review and has been sent on to the Town for approval. Jim fine tuned the proposed form to include a place for a guardian signature for minor volunteers. Jim also reports someone has volunteered to maintain the Ridge Trail and he filled out a Liability Form.

Liaison Reports:

* Ag Committee - Carolyn Wheeler reports they had a very successful presentation of old Shelburne farm photographs with 144 people attending and standing room only at Fellowship Hall. They are planning on doing a repeat presentation soon. The material is available for other interested groups to use. Helen said how much she enjoyed the presentation.
* Conservation Commission - No Liaison present
* Planning Board - John Wheeler reports their next meeting is tomorrow night. They will be doing a survey to see what the residents of Shelburne would like to see them working on . They will probably utilize Survey Monkey. One focal point might be making housing more affordable in the Village. John said he and Caroline are working on a conservation easement on their farm. They are wondering about a trail along Dragon Brook. Jim Perry will arrange a time to stop by and take a look at the area. John will be in need of some surveying work. Norm told him the OSC has used Eric with Green River Survey.
* Recreation Committee - Norm reports basketball remains popular. Outdoor Pickleball moves inside during bad weather. New Cowell Gym Director, Clay Connor, started on July 1. The new windows are being installed and the pickleball court expansion project is in the bidding process.

Correspondence: None

Visitor/Guest Comments: None

Announcements: Deerfield River Scenic designation presentation is before the Select board tonight. Joan forwarded the plan to all of our members. They are working towards Wild and Scenic designation for the Deerfield river.

Ted asked about management of the Town website. Joan will get together with Ted and perhaps go with him to meet with Terry.

Joan LaPierre moved to adjourn the meeting. Norm Beebe seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:57 pm. Our next meeting will be by Zoom August 25 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Dwight

Secretary