Town of SHELBURNE

Planning Board

MINUTES

Regular Meeting via Zoom ~ May 9, 2023

A duly posted meeting of the Shelburne Planning Board was held remotely via Zoom, on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Present: John Wheeler

Will Flanders

Tricia Yacovone-Biagi

Rick LaPierre

Seth Wilschutz

Absent: None

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Guests: Kimberly Noake MacPhee

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair John Wheeler, who noted the meeting was being recorded.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Tricia, seconded by Will, to approve the minutes of April 4. Roll call vote: Will – aye; Rick – aye; Tricia – aye; Seth – aye; John – aye. Motion passed 5-0-0.

**Mail –** Four notices of upcoming hearings from the City of Greenfield. One notice of an upcoming hearing from the Town of Charlemont. An email to Will from Andrea Donlon regarding affordable housing bylaw changes. Email from Andrea Donlon to John regarding the Open Space and Recreation plan. Email from Andrew Baker regarding FRCOG grants for Master Plans.

**Master Plan** – Tricia commented that before the Master Plan could be updated there needs to be a vision of what the town wants to be. The consensus was that the Planning Board did not know that vision. Kimberly noted that the planning process for the MVP grant could help with the visioning process. Rick said the current Master Plan was done with Buckland and how could Shelburne revise it without Buckland? Kimberly said Buckland was a MVP community and Shelburne is on its way to becoming one, the state really likes multi-community projects. It might be possible to do a joint MVP action grant for Master Plan funding. Kimberly also said that Shelburne could apply now for a Master Plan grant through One Stop, apply in December for the same thing, or wait until next year and apply through MVP. It was felt that there would be no time to apply through One Stop since the deadline is May 26. Things may look different in December, by which time someone should have discussed this with Buckland.

**Appointments – Kimberly Noake MacPhee, Climate Resilient Zoning Changes – 7 p.m.** – Kimberly presented a Power Point program on Watershed Scale Zoning, which has received a shared grant for Shelburne, Greenfield, and Bernardston. The idea is that watershed zoning will improve and protect water quality, reduce flooding, increase climate resiliency, and protect wildlife habitat. There is a direct connection between watershed health and how land is used in the past, present, and future. Shelburne now has funding to identify sections of the zoning bylaws that could be updated in regard to protecting water quality, river health, and storm water runoff. What is now needed is up to six working meetings with Kimberly and the Planning Board to review sections of the bylaws and develop draft updates. There would then need to be a public review of the changes. It is hoped that these could be brought to the next Annual Town Meeting. The grant also provides funding for a legal review of the bylaw changes. Building community support is crucial as most of the affected land is privately owned. FRCOG will host three working group meetings with the Planning Boards of Shelburne, Greenfield, and Bernardston to share information. Greenfield has already started the process. The Board decided that these zoning changes could be the main focus for the next year and hoped the meetings with Kimberly could be part of existing Planning Board meetings. A motion was made by Will, seconded by Tricia, to undertake the Climate Resilient Zoning Changes project with Kimberly Noake MacPhee. Roll call vote: Will – aye; Rick – aye; Tricia – aye; Seth – aye; John – aye. Motion passed 5-0-0. Meetings were scheduled for July 11, August 8, and September 5, with more to be scheduled at a later date.

**ANR Plans/Subdivision** – None

**Zoning Relief/Special Permit Applications** – None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bylaw Update** – The 2022 bylaw changes have been approved and will soon be updated on the website. Faye will work with the Town Clerk to submit the 2023 bylaw changes to the Attorney General’s Office.

**Common Driveways** – Will plans to come up with language about common driveways that will be added to the ANR application.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of Planning Board calendar** – The Board reviewed the calendar and decided to move the annual town report preparation from April to March.

**Committee and Regional Project Updates –** The next Franklin County Regional Planning meeting will be held on May 25. The Selectboard has approved $4,500 for the Open Space Committee to do a survey for a trail from Deerfield Avenue to the Mohawk-Mahican Trail. The Ag Commission is working on a program for farmland of local importance. If towns feel certain parcels of land are important, the state can have those parcels added to NRCS maps.

**News Notes –** The schedule for the next few meetings will be added. The updated 2022 bylaws will be listed.

**Other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours prior to the meeting ­**– The Board thanked Rick for serving and said that he will be missed. He was thanked for his good comments and ideas. Faye reminded everyone of the need to take the state ethics training. Tricia was congratulated on her graduation from Northeastern.

**Public Comments –** None

**Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on June 6, at 6:30 p.m.

At 8:18 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Will and seconded by Rick. Roll call vote: Will – aye; Tricia – aye; Rick – aye; Seth – aye; John – aye. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant