

THE WRITTEN MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. MOTIONS ARE AS STATED BY THE MOTION MAKER. MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE SHELburne NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

Natural Resources and Conservation Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Attendance:

Members Attending

Gail Albert (Chair), Sean MacFaden (Vice Chair), Peg Rosenau, Susan Moegenburg, Don Rendall, Thomas Newcomb, Bonnie Christie (by telephone), Kyle Bergeron (student member).

Staff Attending

Dean Pierce

Others Attending

Michael Abrams

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:0PM by Chair Gail Albert.

Review and approve Agenda:

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Thomas Newcomb, seconded by Susan Moegenburg, and approved unanimously by rollcall vote.

Review and approve Minutes:

Don Rendall commented that the minutes should be modified to include his name in the list of attendees. Upon motion by Don, seconded by Peg Rosenau, the minutes for the meeting on March 9 were approved as corrected.

Public Comment (for issues not on agenda):

Gail Albert asked that members introduce themselves for the benefit of newest members Kyle Bergeron and Bonnie Christie. Also, Michael Abrams identified himself as a possible future member of the committee.

Form Based Zoning:

Gail Albert described a note submitted to the Committee by Planning Commissioner Kate Lalley. In it, Lalley emphasizes the importance of stormwater management and alludes to stormwater requirements contained in Form Based Zoning proposal. Dean Pierce presented a short series of slides highlighting important elements of the Form Based Zoning proposal. He explained that the proposal would be implemented on an optional basis, at least initially. He also described how the proposal would lower the threshold for development proposals that are subject to stormwater regulations. Extensive discussion followed.

Development Review:

Snyder Homes proposal for portion of Kwiniaska property

Gail Albert recapped the site visit conducted in association with the Snyder Homes application. Concerns were expressed regarding the degree of tree cutting proposed as part of the proposal and about the generation of stormwater runoff. Bonnie Christie commented that when she visited the site it appeared very wet. She also agreed about the need to emphasize the importance of wildlife corridors. A request was made to share the maps that had submitted as part of the application. Dean Pierce volunteered to send out a link, which will target the online folder where the DRB meeting materials are posted. Sean MacFaden commented on the need for open space to be configured in a way that meaningfully provides for wildlife. Thomas Newcomb commented on the close relationship between development and stormwater and asserted that we as a community need to be more effective in our stormwater planning.

Others

There was no discussion of other projects.

Stormwater items:

Susan Moegenburg reported on her meeting with Town Manager Joe Colangelo, the original purpose of which was to discuss ways for the Committee to increase its involvement in stormwater issues. Susan indicated that the Manager recognizes the potential to collaborate about stormwater as well as other issues. One member offered that the Kwiniaska project exemplifies why such collaboration is needed. Other examples of collaboration identified during the meeting between Susan and Joe were: the Flow Restoration Plan for the Munroe Brook Watershed (a draft will released in May); the possibility that DRB members could serve as “alternates” on the DRB; the Selectboard retreat scheduled for the coming weekend; and a “super meeting” to involve members of the Selectboard, DRB, Planning Commission, and SNRCC. Susan also noted that Andres Torrizo, a consultant known for his work on green infrastructure and design, had agreed to attend the SNRCC meeting in May. Dean Pierce remarked that Andres helped design the gravel wetland that is part of the Nesti Brook restoration effort spearheaded by Jim Pease. Gail Albert mentioned the possibility of somehow recognizing Jim for all his work on that project.

Updates and Ongoing Committee Business:

CBC form

Owing to the time and the fact the Committee is scheduled to meet with the Selectboard after the next committee meeting, discussion of the CBC form was deferred until the meeting in May.

Membership

Gail Albert noted the committee has room for one more member. Gail reported that she’s aware an individual might be interested in joining the committee. Susan Moegenburg

Cross Committee Collaboration/Stormwater

Previously addressed in comments made by Susan Moegenburg.

Vermont Railway project

Dean Pierce was asked what news he could share with the Committee about the project. He responded we are in a “legal phase.” The court hearing is scheduled for May 3-5. He also confirmed that a site visit had been held but that it was unlike site visits conducted as part of typical development projects, in that the Railroad’s attorneys provided access to the site but did not answer questions. Gail Albert reported on her conversation with Rep. Kate Webb. Kate hopes it might be possible for the House of Representatives to adopt a resolution regarding the rail preemption issue. Bonnie Christie commented on the use of salt to maintain roadways and mentioned a handout she received concerning the new chloride standard. She wonders if the committee could play a role in educating the public about the issue. Sean MacFaden and others commented on the relative merits and impacts of winter road maintenance using salt and/or sand. Bonnie Christie mentioned that a rally to build awareness of the rail project is being planned by individuals in the community. Thomas Newcomb mentioned that the magnitude of the Town’s legal costs had come up during a conversation he’d had with Joe Colangelo regarding the project. Thomas also mentioned the Town’s position is that it cannot contemplate any compromises until a ruling has been made by the Judge.

Revised Open Space Plan

Peg Rosenau explained that she and others working on the project “can see the light” at the end of the tunnel. Joannah Ralston is finishing her work and final reviewers—including Holly Brough—have been approached about providing a critical read of the document. Gail Albert asked if a delivery date has been set. Peg responded that it might be possible to release the document in conjunction with the SNRCC’s meeting with the Selectboard as part of the CBC process.

Other:

Peg Rosenau mentioned that she had been in contact with Fran Cohen regarding the garlic removal effort Fran has been planning for Shelburne Bay Park in May. (A similar effort was held last year.) Peg explained that garlic mustard can be relatively easy to hand pull, if care is taken. Fran and Peg are organizing volunteers. Peg will provide an update via email.

Michael Abrams departed the meeting.

Conservation Issues:

There was a brief discussion of conservation projects.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Thomas Newcomb, seconded by Peg Rosenau, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm.