

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, December 7, 2016

Attendance:

Members Attending

Gail Albert (Chair), Peg Rosenau, Sean MacFaden, Bonnie Christie, Susan Moegenburg, Don Rendall, Kyle Bergeron (student representative).

Staff Attending

Dean Pierce

Others Attending

None at SNRCC session. See DRB minutes for attendees at DRB meeting.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by Chair Gail Albert.

Approval of Minutes:

Peg Rosenau moved approval of the minutes for October 5, with Sean MacFaden seconding. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda:

Gail Albert suggested that the group discuss three additional items (Bonnie Christie's resignation, the Stormwater Summit, and the federal lamprey control project) as part of other business. Susan Moegenburg moved approval of the agenda as modified. Peg Rosenau seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Gail noted that this meeting will be Bonnie's last.

Budget Request:

Gail Albert summarized the informal discussion to date and reminded members that the first Selectboard hearing on the draft budget will take place on Wednesday, December 14. Committee members agreed to request an increase (of \$500) in the committee's annual operating budget. Traditionally the Committee's operating budget has been \$1,000 (which for most of the last several years has been included in a \$3,500 allocation shared by SNRCC, the Paths Committee, and the HP&DRC), so the total request for the budget in development is \$1,500. The reason for the requested increase is expenses (VIP/archival copies) relating to the new Open Space plan. After additional discussion, SNRCC members also agreed to request the same amount of funding for the Open Space ballot item that the SNRCC requested last year (\$60,000). (Last year the actual amount of funding presented on the ballot item by the Selectboard was \$30,000.) The motion recommending the \$1,000 increase in the annual operating budget was made by Susan Moegenburg, seconded by Peg Rosenau, and approved unanimously. The motion recommending that the open space ballot item be in the amount of \$60,000 was made by Susan Moegenburg, seconded by Peg Rosenau, and approved unanimously. The motion recommending the \$500 increase in the annual operating budget also was made by Susan Moegenburg, seconded by Peg Rosenau, and approved unanimously.

Development Review

Snyder/Kwiniaska project

Gail Albert reported that the comment letter developed regarding the project was submitted to the DRB on November 28. She went on to explain to Don Rendall that she had not incorporated some of his specific comments concerning building placement but he should to make those comments individually during the hearing. There was no further discussion.

Public Comment (for issues not on agenda):

There was no public in attendance and no public comment.

Conservation Project Updates

Dean Pierce reported that he believes the appraisal being developed for one of the SNRCC's potential conservation projects is nearing completion. If so, it could indicate the project is moving forward, albeit slowly. Don Rendall mentioned he had made contact with a realtor representing the owner of the property (mentioned at a prior meeting) near Route 116. There has been limited response to his inquiry.

Participation in upcoming Planning Commission discussion of "Parcelization" and the future of the Rural district

Dean Pierce explained that conservation planning biologist Jens Hawkins-Hilke of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife has been invited to make a presentation to the Planning Commission the following evening. Jens will discuss forest fragmentation and "parcelization" and the implications those trends might have for Shelburne's rural district. He was invited as a result of interest expressed by Planning Commissioner Kate Lalley. The Planning Commission has also extended an invitation to members of the SNRCC. Susan Moegenburg observed that wildlife connectivity is very important. Sean MacFaden wondered if it would be possible to locate growth nodes within parts of the Rural district. Dean mentioned that he had shared a copy of two maps created as part of the open space plan with Jens. At least some members of the committee indicated they would be able to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

Recess to attend DRB meeting

At approximately 7:30 PM Peg Rosenau moved, seconded by Sean MacFaden, to recess the meeting so the group could attend the DRB hearing on the Snyder Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

[Discussion and comments made by individual committee members may be reflected in the minutes for the DRB meeting.]

Reassembly following return from DRB meeting

At approximately 9:00 PM, with all members and staff having returned from the DRB meeting, Chair Gail Albert declared the meeting resumed.

Other Business

Open Space Plan

Gail Albert reported that a UVM graduate student named Wes will be assisting the SNRCC in preparing a final edited version of the Open Space Plan. She has asked him to suggest times for an initial meeting concerning the project. A contract for the work is in development by the Town Manager's office. The amount listed in the draft contract is \$3,000, although Gail feels that it might be wise to adjust the figure and 'hold back' a slight amount for other purposes. She also expressed concern with a clause in the draft agreement that withholds final payment until the document is approved or accepted by the Selectboard. Gail believes that clause needs to be modified because the editor cannot be held

responsible for the document approval process. Dean Pierce indicated that he would speak with Joe Colangelo about the issue.

Membership

Gail Albert noted that the number of committee vacancies will increase by one with Bonnie Christie's resignation and relocation to New Hampshire. Gail encouraged members to reach out to individuals who might have interest in joining the committee. Dean Pierce suggested the group might wish to announce the vacancies via a Front Porch Forum posting, either via the Town Manager's office or on its own. Gail indicated she would follow up by email with Joe Colangelo.

Housing Vermont Request

Gail Albert described the request she had received from Kathy Beyer of Housing Vermont relating to possible public ownership of Harrington Avenue (which helps provide access to Town owned land along the LaPlatte River). Dean Pierce provided additional details. After brief discussion Gail noted that she intends to attend the Selectboard meeting at which the Harrington Avenue issue is to be discussed. Sean MacFaden noted that the request should help draw attention to the Town parcel and also to the primitive path that needs to be planned for and constructed on the property.

Grant opportunities

Don Rendall suggested that the committee should have a list of projects ready when it becomes aware of grant opportunities. Don volunteered to put time into the effort and identify projects for future discussion.

Lamprey Control

Dean Pierce commented on the recently completed lamprey control effort and clarified the number of endangered stonecat that died in the course of the treatment (approximately 10 rather than 50 as had been previously mentioned). Susan Moegenburg asked whether there had been any further communications regarding the lamprey control structure concept mentioned during the informal gathering held in early November. Dean indicated that aside from responding to questions posed by a local reporter, he had not heard anything more about the effort. He will attempt to contact the USFWS staff if no news is received in the coming weeks.

Stormwater Summit follow up

Dean Pierce indicated that the Planning commission has had limited time to discuss stormwater issues in the months since the stormwater summit. He conjectures that the bulk of the Commission's work on stormwater, at least for a time, will take as part of the work updating the Town's form based zoning (FBZ) overlay. Coincidentally, one of the consulting firms involved in the FBZ project is the same one that prepared stormwater requirements for the City of South Burlington.

Adjournment:

Gail Albert and others present extended thanks and appreciation to Bonnie Christie for her service. Don Rendall moved that the meeting be adjourned, with Bonnie seconding. The motion was approved, and the meeting ended at 9:35 pm.