

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, February 8, 2017

Attendance:

Members Attending

Gail Albert (Chair), Peg Rosenau, Sean MacFaden, Thomas Newcomb, Kyle Bergeron

Staff Attending

Dean Pierce

Others Attending

Fred Morgen, Gerry Guillemette.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Chair Gail Albert.

Approval of Agenda:

Dean Pierce clarified that the reference to Raab in the agenda should read Saar. Gail Albert suggested that the group discuss two additional items: 1) the proposed suspension bridge being planned for the LaPlatte Nature Park, and 2) the groundwater monitoring report prepared by KAS for 4740 Shelburne Road. Approval of the revised Agenda was moved by Thomas Newcomb, seconded by Peg Rosenau. By unanimous vote the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

The group considered the draft minutes for January 11. Sean MacFaden noted that in several instances his name was misspelled and should be corrected. Kyle Bergeron moved approval of the corrected minutes, with Sean seconding. The motion was approved unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment (for issues not on agenda):

Fred Morgen introduced himself to the group. He has submitted a letter of interest to the Town Manager and is seeking appointment to the committee. His interests include preservation of open space and small scale agriculture.

Development Review

Snyder/Kwiniaska project

Dean Pierce reported that the Town has not yet received a Preliminary Plan application for the project. It's not clear when an application might be filed.

Shelburne Shipyard

The hearing on the Shipyard project convened on February 1 and will continue on February 15.

Saar

Dean mentioned that a Sketch Plan has been reviewed by the DRB. He added that some issues relating to wetlands have come to light concerning the so called FY parcel also owned by the Saars. Sean MacFaden reiterated some of the concerns that had been raised about the Saar subdivision proposal and questioned the advisability of creating a new curbcut and roadway.

Desautel

Gail Albert noted that comments had been made by the SNRCC regarding the project. Dean indicated that he would confirm that Kaitlin Mitchell had received the Committee's comments

Public Comment, 2:

Gerry Guillemette introduced himself.

Conservation Project Updates

Gail Albert reported on her conversation with Alan Karnatz of the Vermont Land Trust, who is coordinating activities relating to the Barr project. It appears that fundraising efforts are on track.

Committee Participation in Planning Commission discussions of "Parcelization" and Integrated Agriculture

Dean Pierce indicated that the Planning Commission is not scheduled to resume discussion of issues relating to the Rural district—including parcelization—for at least two weeks. In response to a question from Thomas Newcomb, Dean provided background information about the topic. Dean noted that the Commission is interested in addressing several related issues and will need to prioritize where it spends its time.

Gail Albert then reported on the Planning Commission's January 12 discussion of Integrated Agriculture. She also indicated the Bob Clarke—one of the people advocating for changes to Integrated Agriculture regulations—had written a letter that may warrant a response by the Committee. Thomas wondered what position the Committee might eventually take regarding the issue. Gail responded she believes it is recorded in the minutes for the most recent SNRCC meeting and emphasizes that 1) uses gaining approval as integrated agriculture must have a direct relationship to traditional agricultural activities and 2) the non traditional (non agricultural) aspects of the use much be proportional to the traditional agricultural use. Gail added that the review process needs to address the impacts that Integrated Agriculture uses might have on surrounding areas.

Other Business

Suspension Bridge in LaPlatte Nature Park

Peg Rosenau reported on a conversation she had recently with Joplin James concerning the suspension bridge over the LaPlatte River planned for in the Laplatte Nature Park. Joplin would be happy to meet with the group or individual members if there is interest. Dean Pierce provided additional information regarding preparation of a final design and the likely timetable for construction, if approved.

Information Table at Town Meeting

Gail wondered if the group wishes to set up an informational table at Town meeting. Consideration was given to distributing materials relating the open space. However, the document is still being formatted by Joannah Ralston and might not be ready. Sean MacFaden wondered if the Selectboard will need to review the document before it is distributed. Thomas Newcomb then suggested the table could feature information about the Barr Farm project. Others agreed. Peg offered to assemble materials and coordinate the effort.

Open Space Fund Ballot Item

Gail reported that the amount listed on the Open Space ballot item is \$30,000 (less than requested by the Committee) and that the wording of the item makes reference to a fund balance that does not account for the commitment of funds for the Barr project.

Membership

Gail again recognized Fred Morgan. Gail added that it is her understanding that there are four candidates seeking appointment to fill two vacancies. Dean Pierce stated he was unsure whether the agenda for the Selectboard meeting on February 14 includes an item relating to appointments but it might; he will verify.

Other

Gail indicated that she had expressed concerns relating to the open meeting law (and the impact it has on the work of advisory committees like the SNRCC) to Rep Kate Webb. Kate has worked with staff at the legislative counsel to draft a bill addressing Gail's concerns.

Conservation Projects, 2

Thomas Newcomb moved that the minutes show that SNRCC has made a finding that premature general public knowledge would place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage [per 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)] and further moved that the SNRCC enter executive session for the purpose of discussing a matter involving negotiation and/or securing real estate purchase or lease options, as authorized by 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Peg Rosenau. The motion was approved, and the group entered an executive session during which no minutes were kept. The group exited executive session at 8:44.

Adjournment:

By acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.