

DRAFT February 10, 2021 Meeting Notes  
Natural Resources & Conservation Committee

In attendance: Gail Albert, Dean Pierce, Bob Paquin, Chandler Noyes, Fred Morgan, Don Rendall, Sean MacFaden, Jon Cocina, Mike Schramm, Peg Rosenau and Chris Galipeau representing the Farrington project

Preliminary matters

- Gail called the meeting to order at 7:00PM
- Don moved to approve the agenda, Chandler seconded, motion approved
- Jon moved to approve January meeting notes, Fred seconded, motion approved

Development Review

- Farrington: Chris Galipeau went over proposed changes to the Farmington project on Spear Street to create two new lots. He described the property in detail, including its historic use and the terms of its Act 250 permit restrictions due to wooded prime agricultural soils in just under nine acres of remaining open space.
- Gail asked what level of conservation covered the nine acres and Chris pointed out that the owners would need to go back through Act 250 to change its use which would trigger Town and neighbors review.
- Dean pointed out that the protecting the agricultural soils was a condition of the Act 250 approval
- It was also noted that there is an existing snowmobile trail, a wetland on the edge of the property, a site of archeological concern and proximity to Monroe Brook.
- Jon and Sean recommended the NRCC comment letter stress the value of permanent conservation of the nine acres and the Committee agreed this was a good idea as long it was included as a suggestion and duly recognized Dave Farrington's longtime stewardship of the land.
- Fred moved to approve the project changes with the suggested language and Jon seconded. The motion was approved.

—Ewing: Gail and Dean reported on their most recent discussion with Peter Ewing and the frustration with how long the project has dragged on, especially with the delays with the VLT appraisal. Peter has developed an alternative proposal that raises a number of issues, both regulatory and with respect to natural resources. Bob questioned whether there were some other problems or issues with the project. The committee decided to have Gail and Bob (and subsequently Mike) speak with Al Karnatz of VLT to see if there is a path forward and report back to the committee.

### Regulatory Reform

—Dean summarized the various issue areas the Planning Commission would be reviewing that affects the NRCC's work.

—Don shared draft language the NRCC could submit to the Planning Commission and there was considerable discussion of the best way to proceed given the timing of the PC's schedule.

—Dean suggested a narrow focus with precise language and reducing redundancy.

—Four areas were considered: Sections 300, 330, 810 and the open space definition.

—Jon moved and Chandler seconded a motion to submit Section 300 language requiring that sketch plans be received, reviewed, discussed with applicant and documented by the NRCC. The motion was approved.

—Jon moved and Gail seconded a motion to submit Section 330 language requiring additional documentation on previous submission and conditions including justifications for the projects' requested changes. The motion was approved.

—There was consensus to include the proposed language on Section 810 and the open space definition in the NRCC submission to the PC.

—The committee asked Don, Dean and Gail to circulate the language on the four areas to the NRCC membership for comments prior to the 2/11/21 PC meeting.

### Open Space Fund Budget

—Gail reported that the Selectboard OSF budget recommendation for this year's Town Meeting vote was \$50,000—the first increase in many years. Gail asked that members help get the word out. Peg agreed to do a piece for Front Porch Forum.

### Animal Co-existence

—Don reported that the proposed policy language had been submitted to the Selectboard and his efforts were duly noted.

### Other Business

—Future meeting ideas were made including VLT (Mike), Paths Committee (Sean), Amphibians (Don), Tree Committee (Gail)

—Dean relayed that Ethan Tapper, the county forester, had asked if his material could be circulated on Shelburne Front Porch forum and Gail offered to do so.

—Dean offered to close the loop with Taylor on the forest block work Sean has undertaken on behalf of the NRCC.

—Don made a motion to adjourn at 9:27 and Bob seconded. The motion was approved.