

Meeting Minutes

Natural Resources and Conservation Committee

Shelburne Town Offices –Meeting Room 2

7:00 PM Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Attending: Don Rendall, Fred Morgan, Peg Rosenau, Peggy Day, Sean McFaden, Mike Schramm, Jon Cocina

Call to Order: – 7:06 Don serving as acting chair in Gail’s absence

Review and Approve Agenda:

- Peggy moved to approve. Jon seconded. All in favor, adopted without changes

Review and Approve May Minutes:

- Peggy moved to approve. Mike seconded. All in favor, adopted without changes.

Public Comment (for items not on agenda):

- Hillside Terrace resident – Inquiring about how the town should respond to Beaver dam issues that may cause flooding on local paths and roadways. Typical reaction is to trap and relocate the animal. Given new technology, there are now better alternatives to trapping. What is Shelburne’s approach on human/wildlife conflict. Is there a policy and if not, what should the town do? Would like to request time at the next meeting to discuss the issue. There is a Beaver expert that will provide a demonstration.

Dean said he is not aware of a formal town policy governing

highway department policy in regard to wildlife. The standard response is to contact the state and a game officer.

Don will be point of contact for follow up and the committee will entertain having a 20-30 minute conversation about this at a future meeting.

Prioritization of bylaw changes recommended in Plan:

- Discussion with Planning Commission Chair relating to Rural PUDs, etc.
 - Dean provided an overview of changes adopted in February 2019. This included Rural PUDs, open space requirements, and building envelopments.
 - Select Board wanted definitions to certain terms that were left ambiguous in the most recent changes.
 - Planning commission would like SNRCC to provide a starting place for the definitions of certain words and phrases
 - This is work that can happen over the next couple of committee meetings.
 - Discussed approaching the definitions through the lens of the open space plan. What do we want to evolve? Planning commission wants there to be alignment between the town plan and the open space plan.
 - Sean believes we should go back to State regulations and bring our language more in-line with state standards. We could consult with State staff to help with this process.
 - Key terms – “core forest, steep slope, wildlife corridor, open fields, core habitat.” We should do a review of this section of bylaw changes to identify words that may be challenging and/or ambiguous.
 - Next steps will be to review bylaw changes, identify terms, scope updated definitions, and scale them for Shelburne
 - Plan to add this topic to our next meeting(s)

- Other topics, including review of list of tools compiled by Susan

Moegenburg

- Did not review

Development Review– 8:00-8:05 • Quick inventory of anticipated projects

- Quick report of projects ahead
 - 3 jewels PUD
 - Meuniers 2 lot PUD
 - Kraag 2 log subdivision
 - Whalley 9 lot residential PUD
 - Gardenside nursery going through redesign
 - Healthy Living/Fire Station
 - Shenck multifamily housing
 - And others...

Conservation Projects (Executive session as needed):

- Peggy moved to enter executive session. Peg seconded. All in favor
- Peggy moved to leave executive session. Peg seconded. All in favor

Updates:

Printing of Open Space Plan

- Catamount will handle the printing. Peg connected them with Joannah to transfer files.

Regional Conservation Partnership accord and mapping:

- There will be some type of event to publicize this group and to encourage cross-boundary projects.

Possible dates/times for SNRCC retreat (weekends no longer in play?)

- This was discussed at the last meeting.

Possible sea lamprey barrier project

- Updated concept is to create barrier at the bridge on the LaPlatte. This will be less problematic than the initial proposal that was discussed.

Other Business/ updates:

- Mike recommended a future agenda item related to what happened with the Salt Shed development. How do we prioritize important undeveloped lands before it is too late? He questioned whether or not there has been a review of industrial, undeveloped properties that may be valuable and that we should keep an eye on. The committee considered whether it may be useful to conduct this exercise on other open spaces, not just industrial properties.

Adjourn: 9:15pm

- Peggy moved. Fred seconded. All in favor.