

D R A F T

Shelburne Natural Resources and Conservation Committee
Regular Meeting, August 12, 2020
Minutes

Gail called the meeting to order at 7:05PM, identified a minutes taker and confirmed audio/video connections

In attendance: Dean Pierce, Gail Albert, Bob Paquin, Sean MacFaden, Fred Morgan, Jon Covina, Peg Roseau, Don Rendall, Mike Schramm

- 1) Agenda. Don moved to accept, Fred seconded. All voted in favor.
- 2) Minutes. Fred moved to accept, Bob seconded. All voted in favor.
- 3) No guests in attendance and no public comments.

4) Development Review.

Dean noted that a revised application for the Betsy Wiley property arrived today with no section 600 letter request. He invited David Marshall to attend tonight's meeting. The revised proposal would remain a PUD, but would reduce the number of possible houses from eight to two. Committee discussion centered around the potential loss of a month without the 600 letter and Gail asked about the location of the additional new house. Sean raised concern about earlier discussions on which area was included in the PUD open space and the view shed from the "knob." Bob suggested the Committee to authorize Gail to draft and submit a Section 600 letter as long as there were not significant changes to the project from what Dean had described. Jon, Peg, Fred and Sean spoke in support of this recommendation. Don suggested that the "knob" be included in the open space. Gail requested a copy of the original 600 letter. Bob moved at Gail draft the letter per the discussion. Jon seconded. All voted in favor.

5) Other projects

Nothing new on the Rice Lumber property.

Gail and Dean informed the Committee on the 8/11/20 Selectboard's discussion about economic development and whether town regulations needed to be simplified and/or streamlined. There was a very small audience for the discussion. The town manager had circulated a memo on the issue. There is to be an RFP to hire a consultant and the town manager was asked to reach out to committee chairs

for input. The NRCC members' consensus was one of concern for the impetus and motivation for regulatory reform and support for a broader discussion among residents as to what the community wants.

6) Bylaw changes. Don reported on the subcommittee efforts, outlining the need to select the important natural resources in town, including forest blocks, threatened and endangered species and open spaces in rural areas. What is included in the 60% of open space is important to the NRCC. The subcommittee is considering the balance between going from 15 to 25% slopes in exchange for more open space protection. Gail and Dean mentioned the availability of RPC limited technical assistance via Act 171 to assist in modifying PUD open space definitions. Fred cautioned that regulations need specific wording to function which limits how much simplification can be accomplished. Sean pointed out that these are decades old issues and community needs and structures can't be diminished. Peg added that rega can't be simplified to the point of not being meaningful. Jon asked what would be given up going from 15 to 25% slopes and what would be gained for natural resources? Mike spoke in support of Jon and Sean's comments and raised the issue of views from lower elevations of potentially more structures on upper slopes obstructing viewsheds. Gail said the goal was to simplify and clarify simultaneously with consistent definitions which could be referenced from different sections of the various regulations. She reiterated the NRCC priorities of forest blocks, habitat connectivity and scenic vistas/views.

7) Lamprey Control Barrier. Dean shared the photo simulations of the proposed barriers at Shelburne Falls as an alternative to chemical treatment. Gail polled the members and all generally supported this low tech alternative. Sean, Don and Mike noted concern for non-target species possibly affected by the barrier. Gail to draft a letter on the project.

8) Animal Co-existence Working Group. Don reported that the subcommittee was winding down its work and had taken the NRCC comments into consideration and will be back with a document.

9) No conservation projects.

10) Forest Block Analysis. Sean shared maps and observations on the forest blocks in town over 20 acres, noting that the railroad and Anderson properties contain less forest today than in 2016. He clarified that he was not using terms such as core forest or edge forest intentionally. He outlined the next steps in the process would be to confirm the rationale used by South Burlington, review Act 171 for its

application to Shelburne and further refine his analysis. Gail pointed out the need to identify which forest blocks could be developed versus those conserved. Sean raised the parcelization of forest blocks as a key issue.

11) There was some additional discussion of the bylaw change issue and the selectboard economic development effort and then Jon moved to adjourn which Mike seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM until the next regular meeting on September 9th.