

Meeting Minutes
Shelburne Natural Resources and Conservation Committee
Shelburne Town offices- Meeting Room 1
Special Meeting 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 26, 2019

Attending: Don Rendall (acting as chair), Gail Albert, Jon Cocina, Peg Rosenau, Bob Paquin, Dean Pierce (Planning staff), Sean MacFaden (arrived at 7:35)

Call to order: 7:02

Minute Taker: Don Rendall

Agenda: Don moved to approve- second- Peg. Unanimous approval to accept September 11, 2019 agenda

Approval of July 2019 minutes Moved to approve - Peg, second- Jon. Discussion amendment to spelling of names and minor grammatical items. Gail abstained, motion passed

There was no public comment.

Don explained the content of the definitions document. SNRCC was asked by the Select Board to provide definitions of terms used by the Planning Commission when it proposed a change to PUD regulations which were approved by the Select Board. When researching these items, Don accumulated additional definitions which may be useful when SNRCC approaches the Planning Commission with other regulatory changes in the future. The first question is: is there too much in this document?

The group began to discuss the definition of "Open Space." Don explained he crafted a general definition of open space, a definition of conserved open space (a specific type of importance to SNRCC as it provides the greatest long term protection of that open space), and a definition of public open space where much recreation spaces are contained. Was some kind of definition of private open space needed to cover cases such as have been presented in earlier public session in Planning Commission hearings. It was asked if we needed language covering many types of open space which were described in the first version of the Open Space Plan. Discussion followed about changes made to Open Space language between the first and the second OS Plan.

An idea for ranking types of Open Space for different types was presented (Ag, Natural, etc). Could they be traded by developer in a PUD application getting credits and not having to reserve a complete 60% per the current regulation? The many types of open space were discussed which were described in Don's document. Discussion proceeded to what open space was not and language that excluded types of land from Open Space. Attention was focused on recreation, that it should not be described as active or passive and that only low impact outdoor recreation be considered for open space.

The discussion then turned to examine the current Shelburne language in contrast with South Burlington's language which Dean explained has had much interest. The group first looked at the current Shelburne language with a focus on less content but said we should add exclusions. The group then proceeded to blend the two town's language and resulted in the following definition:

Land which is set aside from development by conveyance to the Town or some qualified holder, or through covenants, easements, deed restrictions or open space agreements with the town, and designated to remain in its natural state (woodland, meadow land, wetland, etc.), for low impact outdoor recreation uses with no structures, or agricultural use. Open space specifically excludes streets, parking areas, driveways and other areas accessible to motor vehicles.

A question was raised if the general open space last sentence regarding human made structures be included and further discussion followed about what structures are appropriate in open spaces.

Steep slopes was the next item to be discussed for definition. This item is included in Shelburne regulatory language regarding developable land in Section 2110.36. Discussion noted the use of the current standard by the Town for more than a decade. The importance that the slopes related restriction is in order to minimize runoff impacts from impervious surfaces thus impacting Lake Champlain and other water bodies was emphasized. What is the specific relationship between slope and runoff. We need the ability to have hydrologic impacts of slopes and the 15% is precedent and common in VT. A check of USDA natural resource data might answer these questions. The group agreed to maintain the current standard.

At 9PM, Jon moved to adjourn, Gail seconded and all approved.