

Shelburne Natural Resources and Conservation Committee

Minutes, Regular Monthly Meeting, 1/11/23

In Attendance: Don Rendall, Sean MacFaden, Bob Paquin, Chandler Noyes, Jon Cocina, Fred Morgan, Gail Albert (arrived 6:38pm), Mike Schramm (arrived 6:42pm).

1. Call to order, 6:36pm
2. Agenda, Jon moved to approve, Chandler seconded (all in favor)
3. Minutes from December 2022, Jon moved to approve, Fred seconded (Chandler abstained; everyone else in favor).
4. Public Comment
 - a. None
5. Development Review
 - a. Bissonnette (3807 Shelburne Rd.)
 - i. Jon mentioned that the relationship to Munro Brook is the primary concern but otherwise he sees no other red flags
 - ii. Don wondered whether a corner of the property is the Munro Brook floodplain.
 - iii. Gail mentioned that, generally, she would really like to see large-format paper copies of the proposal maps.
 - iv. Don also mentioned that the developed area will extend from, essentially, the northern border all of the way to southern border, limiting the amount of greenspace around the development.
 - v. Chandler noted that the draft plan does not yet have a stormwater treatment plan (it is not required at this stage; it will be added at the next round of review).
 - vi. Mike noted that 33 units will occupy 2 acres.
 - vii. Bob Paquin motioned this synopsis of the committee's concerns: Munro Brook, adjacent wetlands, affordability (Jon seconded). Don will draft the committee's comments and submit them to the Development Review Board via town staff.
6. Strategy for Using the Pending Habitat Block Assessment (currently under development by Arrowwood).
 - a. How will the maps inform town planning, specifically development review?
 - i. Don mentioned the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's previous suggestions for focusing on wildlife habitat.
 - ii. Jon noted that habitat blocks in rural areas are really the intent; they'll have less relevance to the town's designated growth areas.
 - iii. Gail mentioned, however, that the habitat assessment will also help guide development in the growth areas, identifying features that are essential to wildlife-habitat protection.
 - iv. Gail also mentioned that the maps will help facilitate outreach with landowners.
 - v. Don indicated that we need to be thinking in terms of specific regulatory language; South Burlington offers an example for this approach.
 - vi. Jon suggested that, if the overall goal is an overlay district that guides development, the Arrowwood report and its approach of highlighting habitat blocks will help facilitate this objective.

- vii. Mike suggested that the best approach will be to wait until the report is complete and then have Arrowwood report its findings to the Selectboard and Planning Commission.
 - viii. Gail will contact Arrowwood to determine whether they'd be willing to present their report to a town-wide audience, including all pertinent town boards. She will also ask the Selectboard and Planning Commission about scheduling.
 - ix. Chandler mentioned that we should also ask Arrowwood whether they would be amenable to the town recording their presentation, which could be used later if scheduling a joint meeting with all relevant boards proves difficult.
- 7. Possible Outreach Efforts for the Habitat Block Assessment
 - a. Possibilities include Front Porch Forum and Shelburne News. Wide publicity of Arrowwood's presentation to the town would be very useful.
- 8. Participation at Public Meetings
 - a. Gail expressed that she cannot continue attending every town meeting; she'd like others to participate more. She likely will step down from the committee-chair responsibilities in March.
- 9. Other Activities
 - a. Gail suggested the committee should consider returning to activities that it previously conducted on regular basis, such as inviting speakers on topics of interest, farm tours, and field visits to the town's notable natural resources.
- 10. Adjourned, 7:33 pm (Don motioned, Bob seconded, all in favor).