

Shelburne Working Group on Human-Wildlife Interactions Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2020

Present: Sharon McNair, Lisa Vear, Michael Ashooh, Josh Dein, Jon Cocina, Jim White.

Facilitator: Sharon McNair

Notes: Jon Cocina

1. Motion to approve agenda approved.
2. Motion to accept minutes of January 16, 2020 was delayed until the next meeting given the lack of subcommittee members that were in attendance.
3. No public comment.
4. Policy Development
 - Jim White provided an update that he had a brief discussion with a game warden (name not provided) and casually asked if the warden would attend a future subcommittee meeting. The committee then discussed the prevalence of hunting in Shelburne. Josh expressed an interest in understanding what game wardens believe is within their jurisdiction and what is not. Once we understand that, it may be easier to understand where gaps exist and where policy would be most helpful. Jim wants to understand what common issues game wardens see in Shelburne and what the town could be doing better to help handle these issues. The committee also briefly discussed if there are ways for the town of Shelburne to partner more closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - The committee then revisited the conversation about how other municipalities have drafted similar plans to what the group is being tasked with creating. Don and Jerry were both absent from the meeting, so the group was unable to review a draft of the policy that they were going to get started. Mike felt the group should follow the Jackson Hole template discussed in the last meeting. Everyone seemed to like starting with a vision statement of the ideal. Sharon mentioned the need to ensure the plan is encompassing of all animals, not just wildlife. For example, is the town police department responsible for handling cases of animal abuse? In terms of agricultural animals, the town can only articulate an ideal, but jurisdiction is covered by the state. Josh reminded the committee to focus on the “cracks”. For example, “what happens if domestic animals chase livestock? Who is responsible?” Jim mentioned that the plan should be about intention, the things we want to see happen. Preserving working landscapes was mentioned as an issue of high value since it represents habitat even in a developed setting. In general, the committee agreed that loss of habitat is a very significant issue. Mike mentioned that even if we start with broad strokes, it can eventually trickle down to more prescriptive measures. A next step identified was to contact Jerry about the status of the draft policy.
 - The committee next discussed, that there may be more need for intake and research. There are still questions of whether wildlife interactions/problems are being documented by the police department. Mike offered to take a next step on investigating this issue.
 - There was agreement that the committee should invite Animal Control Officer, Bob Lake to a next meeting, but the committee will hold on formally inviting the game warden.
 - Jim mentioned a desire to have Shelburne residents participate in recording wildlife information (sightings, roadkill, etc.) There was some interest and Josh said that platforms exist to handle

this, but the committee would need to define what we are asking people to do.

5. Any other business

- Lisa asked about the Pond Road paving situation. Mike indicated that it would not be on the ballot and will be explored further in Summer 2020.

6. Committee agreed to meet again in about a month. Jon will email Don about setting up a Doodle Poll.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:15. Jim motioned and Lisa seconded. All in favor.