

Public Meeting  
Natural Resources and Conservation Committee  
7:00 PM Wednesday April 12, 2022

Attendees: Fred Morgan, Robert Paquin, Don Rendall, Gail Albert, Chandler Noyes, Christine Haines, Mike Schramm, Sean MacFaden, Jon Cocina  
Guests: Adele Gravitiz, Alec Webb, Bob Heiser

- 7:00: Call to order, identify minute taker (Christine)
- Agenda and minutes from 3/9 approved.
  
- Alec Webb from Shelburne Farms and Bob Heiser from the VT Land Trust joined to provide an update of the Windmill Hill conservation project. The land is within Shelburne Farms and had previously been sold. The farm has now been able to repurchase it and will put a conservation easement in place; expanding their farming practices and extending the farm trail system. They are looking to secure town support.
  - Everyone in agreement that this is an important project, great for the farm, and a good potential use of open space funding.
  - Bob moves that we write a letter of support and accept an application for open space funding.
  - Jon seconds. All approve, with Sean abstaining
  
- Committee elections discussed, as well as open positions on the Planning Commission. No one immediately puts their name forward as a potential SNRCC officer nor as a potential candidate for the PC. Issue is tabled to allow members to think it over.
  
- Progress on RFP: No responses received yet, also no acknowledgments of receipt or interest. Gail will follow up. Chandler will also check with contacts of his who may be interested. There is agreement that it may just be too early to have heard back, but responses indicating interest (or not) would be helpful.
  
- DRB Projects
  - Don reports that Shelburne Shipyard project has been approved to move to final review. This is despite no resolution to state permitting questions (completed permits required to approve the final plans, not sketch plans, according to DRB). General questions raised as to what exactly the rules are now as far as permitting and our place in it. It appears our issues have been ignored. Jon asks again where our letter comes in and does it actually matter at all. We are still required to write a letter before final plans are approved. Bob suggests we write a letter saying we do not approve the project, citing a lack of answers to our questions concerning

environmental impact. Then if the project still moves forward we know where we stand and the issue will be made public. Chandler suggests perhaps we just shouldn't submit a letter, but Don cites past comments that no letter at all is simply taken as a committee having no comments to add.

- Gail mentions a Selectboard Retreat coming up which is open to the public. Good place to bring up these issues.
  - Bob leaves after this discussion (8:08)
  - Car Wash application for site of Champlain Lanes. Most agree that this site does not have much natural resource value left, and while this might not be our preferred use for this site, we as a committee have no reason to oppose it. Gail would have preferred a comment that we don't have enough information without a project person presenting all the information to us, but Jon makes the point that this particular site wouldn't be worth the fight.
  - Don reports on Precourt condo expansion, which was discussed at the last DRB meeting. Nothing to review since it's in the Form-Based Code overlay district.
  - Falls Road project: Very similar to previously discussed project in this area, very similar comments. Jon motions to make similar comments to that previous project (keep the back of lots open, would prefer access to the LaPlatt) plus add that we would like to see more of the forest preserved, possibly moving condos closer to the existing building. Mike seconds. All approve.
- Briefly discussed information materials Adele had forwarded. No actions, just informational.
  - Don gave an update presentation on the FBC. Information on the town website.
  - Strategic Planning
    - We don't need to comment on every project.
    - Very much need to decide on procedural rules and how we fit in
    - We need language in our regulations to protect natural resources in said regulations. Our suggestions need some teeth.
    - Gail reiterates important of having a voice in the upcoming Selectboard retreat.
  - Don moves, Jon seconds, adjournment of meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:17