

DRAFT

Meeting Notes

Shelburne Natural Resources and Conservation Committee

7:00 PM Monday, April 17, 2023

Attendees: Gail, Don, Bob, Jon, Fred, Sean, Chandler, Christine
Guests: Mark Pennington, Jim White, Percy Worrall

Gail called meeting to order at 7:02pm

Bob volunteered to be minute taker

Don suggested an ongoing minute taker roster in alphabetical order by first name. Agreed to.

Committee reviewed and approved the agenda with Don's addition to discuss the "No Mow May" program.

Members reviewed and approved March 8 minutes

Motion: Bob moved, Chandler 2nd;
and March 29 minutes:

Motion: Don moved, Chandler 2nd, Bob abstained since he had not attended the March 29 meeting.

Public Comments: None

Committee elections:

The following slate was proposed: Chair: Don, Vice-Chair: Chandler,
Secretary: Christine

Motion: Bob moved, Don 2nd, Motion carried

Christine offered to take on the duty of getting the approved minutes posted.

Arrowwood (AW) mapping follow-up:

Committee members and guests discussed how best to proceed to make the best use of the AW mapping and various other available data layers in the near-term town review of development projects as well as timely integration with the consultants in the zoning regulation/bylaws rewrite process.

Don shared the outline of the Act 171 process, and it was noted that the AW work represented significant progress on the first step of identifying forest blocks and habitat connectors.

Percy offered to share a more detailed outline with the Committee and made helpful clarifications about Act 171 during the discussion.

Gail emphasized the importance of building working relationships with the new town manager and Planning Commission (PC) consultants as soon as possible.

Several members examined the need for the bylaws to follow/conform with the town plan.

Sean noted that the town plan had several statements specifically regarding resource protections which cover the use of the AW maps.

Gail stressed the need for the DRB to use the maps in their review process and Don noted that planning staff would/should use the maps as applications came in pointing applicants away from important resources.

Mark added that the AW maps with its interactive layers should definitely get into the PC mix.

Chandler spoke to the maps helping the town comply with Act 171 and also cited the many statements in the town plan providing for environmental protection.

Gail suggested the Committee ask the Select Board (SB) to direct the Planning Commission to incorporate the AW mapping into the process.

Don asked if the Committee should ask the SB for guidance.

Sean described the value of integrating the AW map and SNRCC's last map's data layers to identify and prioritize the remaining unconserved forest blocks of the most importance not under other regulatory oversight. Shelburne is under development stress and

essentially at its maximum build-out point. The SB could then envision how the layers could be used, and make these tools official in the development review process.

The Committee agreed to take an informal communication approach initially, working toward a formal presentation as soon as feasible to validate our town plan.

Fred offered to speak with a couple of SB members informally about our efforts and Jon offered to assist in the messaging.

Gail again stressed the need to get these tools used in the development review process.

There was Committee discussion about whether a specific separate amendment to the town plan would be needed to proceed with incorporating the AW and related data into the planning process. While no clear consensus was reached, the concern of the delay this approach would entail was expressed.

Sean offered to pull together the data layer summaries and to present them at our next meeting on May 10.

Gail asked that the meeting be recorded since she would be unable to attend. Chandler also would not be attending since he will be awarded his PhD after a successful dissertation defense. The Committee noted this major accomplishment for the record.

Don offered to reach out to Jens Hilke to pursue the Community Values mapping project specifically for important ecological resource areas.

Gail recommended the Committee maintain a presence at all PC meeting particularly during their reg rewrite. Chandler and Bob mentioned how valuable it would be if the SNRCC could use the room and technology the PC uses.

Landowner outreach:

There was not sufficient time to do this subject justice, but it was agreed to be an important topic for a future meeting.

Planning Commission follow-up:

This agenda item was covered in the AW discussion.

Other business:

Don passed along the request for an expression of support for the “No Mow May” effort.

Motion: Gail moved that the Committee express its support for pollinators the effort seeks to provide. Chandler 2nd. Motion approved. Gail moved to adjourn, Jon 2nd. Motion approved at 8:44pm.