

SNRCC – Minutes, April 10, 2019

Dean Pierce, Gail Albert, Kyle Bergeron, Peg Rosenau, Peggy Day, Don Rendall, Sean MacFaden, Jon Cocina, Hannah Frasure, Mike Schramm, Fran Cohen (guest)

1. Agenda (Peggy moved, Peg seconded, all approved)
2. March minutes (Peggy moved, Peg seconded, all approved)
3. Committee Reorganization
 - a. Gail Albert was elected chair and Don Rendall co-chair (Peggy moved, Peg seconded, all approved).
 - b. The SNRCC thanked Kyle Bergeron for his service on the committee and welcomed Mike Schramm.
4. Garlic mustard control
 - a. Fran Cohen described her past work in removing garlic mustard (invasive species) from town lands (e.g., Shelburne Bay Park). It requires much effort to organize a team and coordinate their efforts in the field, and she hopes that a more formal annual program could be instituted. Peg, Hannah, and Kyle all suggested that Champlain Valley Union High School students may be able to help in some capacity. Hannah will make some enquiries at the school.
5. Regional Conservation Partnership update and mapping
 - a. The partnership promotes inter-town cooperation on land conservation and stewardship. The partnership potentially could include Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, St. George, Hinesburg, and Charlotte.
 - b. Maps will be an important of the collaborative effort, and it would be helpful if conserved-land designations are standardized among towns. Conservation status could also be compared to Agency of Natural Resources data on forest patches, agricultural fields, and riparian corridors.
 - c. Next meeting of the partnership will be held next week.
 - d. Invasive species management could be an issue for the partnership, particularly the development and maintenance of volunteer groups who perform the necessary field work and coordinate appropriate disposal of plant material.
6. Prioritization/Strategizing for advancing bylaw changes recommend in town plan.
 - a. Don Rendall described his ongoing efforts to translate priority recommended actions in the town plan into specific zoning and subdivision and changes.
 - b. Dean emphasized that, in the wake of the JAM Golf decision, any new bylaws must be clear, specific, and mandatory. Also, any preliminary steps required by the bylaws must be clearly articulated (e.g., traffic studies).
 - c. When considering new or modified bylaws, Dean also indicated that it is often very helpful to study the rules that other municipalities have enacted to fulfill similar goals.
 - d. It is also sometimes possible to change thresholds of existing bylaws rather than develop entirely new planning structures.
 - e. Regarding the recently-instituted requirements to Shelburne's rural PUD, the Planning Commission will re-visit the thresholds used to trigger PUDs as well as the percentage of required open space. Another potential change could be incorporation of the stormwater rules required in form-based zoning into rules for the rural zone.

7. Printing of the Open Space Plan.
 - a. Peg is still researching options, which are generally expensive.
8. Development Review
 - a. Clarification of Collette subdivision
 - i. Project is currently at the sketch phase.
 - b. Rice Lumber amendment
 - i. Entrance to driveway to residential lots would be moved from a parking lot location to one on the main entrance to the lumber facility.
 - ii. This issue will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.
9. Conservation Projects
 - a. Ewing Project
 - i. Peter Ewing has indicated that the part of project coordinated by The Nature Conservancy will be finalized soon.
 - ii. The other part of the project, to be conserved by the Vermont Land Trust, is still being discussed.
10. Other Business
 - a. Paths Committee would like to plant native trees (willows) near the LaPlatte Nature suspension bridge to prevent erosion.
 - b. Sean observed that puncheons would be a good idea along parts of the trail that traverses the western floodplain to the suspension bridge.
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm (Peggy motioned, Don seconded, all approved)