

Town of Shelburne
Stormwater Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2019

Present: Marty Illick, Dick Elkins, Mike Schramm, Chip Stulen (Shelburne Museum); also Owen Clay (new Operations Manager at Shelburne Farms), Tom Nold (Shelburne Farms), Milly Archer, VLCT, Tom DiPietro, City of South Burlington, Chris Robinson, Water Quality Superintendent, Lee Krohn, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.

Motion by Illick to approve the minutes of May 21, 2019 as corrected; seconded by Elkins and approved unanimously.

Fundamental goals were reviewed – to produce a system and ordinance that can be adopted this fall, in time for budget season, and which can be implemented as of July 1, 2020. Ideas raised at the last meeting to help address concerns raised included ‘ramping up’ the fee structure over a two- or three-year timeframe, increasing/expanding the education and agriculture credits (which also do not require engineering analysis or constructed improvements), and discounting ‘disconnected lands’ from any impervious surface calculations. If those credits could be increased, there could also be guidelines attached to clarify purpose, intent, and decisionmaking. Could there also be a sliding scale for cases where there is a small % of impervious land area on a large parcel, even if it’s a large number of square feet – could this help bring the calculations into a bit more proportional of an approach?

The importance of a united front on the committee was noted as essential in bringing this forward again to the Selectboard and community.

The question was asked whether the credit manual was too complicated, and thus, whether certain matters could just be incorporated in the basic land calculations to simplify fee determinations. As with this and other questions about the structure of the draft ordinance, it was noted that these were modeled after other municipalities’ ordinances, and had been reviewed by legal counsel for technical and legal soundness.

That said, it is well within Shelburne’s ability to consider modifying policy-related matters such as the types and % of credits that might be allowed. This was helpful, given concerns that even though we might allow up to 70% credit (where others cap credits at 50%), was it realistically achievable on any property? It was also noted that while credits are important, the ultimate goals are either actual stormwater treatment/mitigation, or fees to support stormwater work required by state and federal agencies.

Cost of basic stormwater compliance activities is about \$250K/year; plus phosphorus control and flow restoration plan, for an estimated total needed of \$400K/year. Concerns continued to be expressed regarding non profit entities’ ability to pay – for example, Shelburne Farms’ estimate alone is roughly

\$32K/year before any credits, or 8% of the total Town expense. Fairness and equity remained of concern, while still wanting to participate in sharing the burden.

These matters will be revisited as the committee strives toward solutions and strategies that all can support.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9 at 3:00 P.M.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn