

Shelburne Natural Resources and Conservation Committee

Regular Meeting, Minutes, May 11, 2022

Present: Don Rendall, Jon Cocina, Christine Bevacqua, Chandler Noyes, Sean MacFaden, Fred Morgan. Mike Schramm (arrived 7:20pm). Guest: Robilee Smith

1. Call to order, 7:06pm.
2. Approve Agenda. Jon motioned, Christine seconded, all approved
3. Approve Minutes from 4\12\22. Jon motioned, Chandler seconded, all approved.
4. Public Comment
 - a. Robilee Smith. Robilee discussed possible alternatives to intensive development on the Crombach\Brandon property (6.2 acres). The existing neighborhood of single-family homes would be greatly altered by the proposed project. Ecologically, the parcel consists of “old woods,” mostly white pine and white ash. Turkey vultures nest in the pines, and the parcel filters stormwater runoff. If developed, the Crombach\Brandon proposal would create much additional traffic on Shelburne Rd. and remove many of its current ecological and societal benefits. Would a pocket park be a better alternative? Robilee mentioned that the developers may be amenable to selling the property, and perhaps a group of residents and others could help formulate some type of conservation deal. Jon suggested that the parcel’s location and size would not be attractive to conservation organizations but a group of citizens could work on their own behalf. Don mentioned that Gail Albert (not present) is the committee’s primary contact with multiple conservation organizations in Vermont and would be best able to make introductions for possible discussions.
5. Selectboard Retreat Follow-up. Don mentioned that sewer system upgrades are part of the capital improvement plan. The tentative plan is to upgrade the processing facility on Harbor Rd. and discontinuing the facility off of Bay Rd.
6. New Name for Committee? Don mentioned that some members of the Selectboard have suggested a different name for the committee. The committee will think about it but initial discussion suggests that members are skeptical of the need for re-branding.
7. Progress Report on RFP for Consultant Study (Forest Block Analysis)
 - a. Proposal from Arrowwood Environmental
 - i. Only proposal received as of 5/11/22.
 - ii. Jon mentioned that, because we had an early discussion with Arrowwood, they effectively tailored the proposal for Shelburne’s needs. All members concurred.
 - iii. Christine moved that the committee pass the proposal on to the Selectboard for their review and potential approval. Jon seconded. All approved.
8. Development Review
 - a. June 1 Meeting
 - i. Shenke (Shelburne Rd.) – Ice rink proposal plus additional housing. Mike and Jon mentioned that the committee has already reviewed this proposal; no further comments were offered.
 - ii. Berkeley\LaRosa (Dorset St.) – 3-lot subdivision. No further comments were offered.

iii. Don made a motion to indicate that no further comment was offered on either project, Jon seconded, all approved.

9. Updates. None.

10. Adjourn, 8:02pm. Jon motioned, Christine seconded, all approved.