

**Meeting Agenda Natural Resources and  
Conservation Committee Wednesday, September 9,  
2020 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes:**

- Call to Order: – 7:00

In attendance: Fred Morgan, Susan Moegenburg, Dean Pierce, Don Rendall, Gail Albert, Peg Rosenau, Bob Paquin, Jon Cocina, Sean McFaden, Mike Schramm, William Griffin, Dave Marshall

- Preliminary matters– 7:00 -7:20

- Confirm audio/video and address technology questions
- Identify minute taker - Jon Cocina
- Review and Approve Agenda - Bob moved, Don second, All in favor
- Review and Approve August notes - Don moved with update to Jon’s name, Fred seconded. All in favor
- Public Comment (for items not on agenda) - No public comment

- Development Review: – 7:20-7:30

- Request for Section 600 letter (Griffin Project, David Marshall)
  - Proposed 3 lot subdivision.
  - Questions regarding driveway length, who will be responsible for developing the new lots, wastewater and infiltration, grade near the driveway.
  - Gail asked about previous plans for a 9 lot subdivision. Bill mentioned that based on David Marshall’s advice, they are not looking to develop the area of the meadow.
  - Don moved to approve as proposed, Peg seconded. All in favor

- Selectboard / Town Manager “Regulatory Reform” Initiative:– 7:30-7:50 (Gail)

- What does the committee see as the most important elements of “regulatory reform”?
- Bob - What is the impetus for this? Complaints from developers, etc?
  - Gail believes its coming out of the development going on at the former bowling alley and the concerns about empty buildings on Shelburne Road.
- This is a community issue. Does the majority of citizens want these changes or is

it just a few? If it's not the majority, then things don't need to change.

- Peg - We need to understand the problems? Is this the solution?
- The committee really wants to understand why this is coming about now?
- Sean mentioned that Lee's documents are really about both process and content. Streamlining administration could be good. However, there are concerns that the real issue is what is in the content and what people do and do not agree with. Is this really more about the planning process and seeing what the community wants?
- Don - Thought that ideas needed to make it to the town plan and then regulations are changed. This seems to subvert that process.
- Bob - "Housing development is NOT economic development"
- Mike - Feels curious that we and others don't really know who is behind this. Looking through documents, gut feel is that the changes may be driven by the ambition of the town manager.
- Fred - What do people see as economic development? Do people want Shelburne to be some kind of business community? What do the citizens really want?
- Agreed that each committee member will email Gail their 2-3 top questions?

• Subdivision Bylaw changes : – 7:50-8:15 (Don)

- Gail sent a consolidated document with suggested edits to the committee.
- Request that the committee reviews these and adds comments
- Discussion about various mapping filters we could use to help prioritize and justify recommended changes. Ultimately these should reflect the core values of the town. There will always be some element of subjectivity with this decision.
- Don reminded everyone that we just need to make a recommendation and then the Planning Commission and Selectboard will make the final call.
- Gail asked if we should be sending the Planning Commission a list of priorities or very specific regulation updates.
- Bob recommended priorities and then also focusing on the other question of regulatory reform
- Peg - leaning toward pushing priorities
- Mike - Priorities, but concerned that the entire situation may change given the regulatory reform question
- Fred - Also aligned with priorities because there's a concern that all of the work could be for not if the regulatory situation changes.

• Conservation Projects : – 8:15-8:35 (Gail/Bob)

- Bread and Butter Farm - Ewing

- Gail updated the group about the need for a reappraisal. VLT was able to get someone to go to the property to do it. Hopes that Alan or someone from VLT may be able to update the committee about the overall Bread and Butter project in the coming months.
  
- Animal Coexistence Working Group : – 8:35-8:45 (Don)
  - Don reported that the group is scheduling a next meeting to review a policy draft. May have a draft to share with SNRCC in the next month or two.
  
- Other Updates: – 8:45-8:55
  - Mapping - Sean has contacted Paul Connor in S. Burlington to ask about the 20 acre criteria that S.Burlington uses. Paul indicated that they have not passed any new ordinances indicating the 20 acre number. He has sent documentation for Sean to review and Sean will then share with this group. This should help provide justification for identifying forest blocks of 20-25 acres.
  - Regional Conservation Group - Last meeting was canceled so there was no update.
  
- Other Business: 8:55-9:00
  - Dean mentioned a schedule related to the development of the budget. Process will start earlier this year and will be more intense. Selectboard will be talking about this in mid-October. Committee may only have one meeting to discuss.
  - Mike - mentioned the Conserved Forever signs in Charlotte. Potentially something for the committee to explore if there are funds available.
  
- Adjourn: – 9:00, or upon completion of Other Business
  - Don moved, Bob seconded. All in favor.