

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
October 8, 2019

The meeting came to order at 6:04 pm. Present were commissioners Naomi Miller, Chris Williams (chair), and Michael Cichanowski. Michael Foley arrived at 6:15 p.m. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to approve the September 24 minutes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Re action items, Ms. Miller shared a list of about fifteen items on the action item list that seemed to her to be the responsibility of the Planning Commission rather than the Select Board or the town generally. The group began to discuss them. (Aside: ZA Stiles recounted some of the issues with securing a grant for an EV charging station. It was agreed that Mr. Williams would invite Rep. Durfee to a meeting to discuss this and other issues.)

- Action “streamline application processcommercial activities.” No action came immediately to mind.
- Action “map out and provide access to town forest.” We will need to lay out, step by step, what needs to get done here. Mr. Williams will ask Tim Scoggins if we may seek advice re access from our town attorney.
- Action “highlight benefits...parks...local trails.” Mr. Foley said the chair of the Rec Committee has lots of energy and could help with Howard Park. The Lake Shaftsbury trail needs work. Perhaps Mr. Durfee could lend a hand with Forests Parks and Rec. Mr. Cichanowski said he’d look into producing maps for Howard Park, Robert Frost’s land, and Lake Shaftsbury for placing on the town website.
- Action “mapping, to protect groundwater.” ZA Stiles read portions of an old email from the state geologist suggesting steps we could take. ZA will reach out to her deputy Jonathan Kim to ask if he might visit with us.
- Action “zoning and development review....” ZA Stiles will try to find out if there are BMPs for protection of the resources mentioned in this and other action items. They could be referenced in the bylaw.
- Action “incorporate requirements for erosion...” ZA Stiles suggested referencing the state regulations in the bylaw. Mr. Williams thought that was “weak magic “

Mr. Williams mentioned several sites where zoning enforcement is required: signs at Paulins, a collection of Saabs on Old Depot Rd., a banner on 7A. The ZA will communicate with Paulins about their signs and seek their cooperation with the town. She will speak with the town administrator about making a presentation to the Select Board about community responsibility for complying with zoning rules. It may catch the attention of some citizens.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adjourn at about 7:20 pm. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

Notes by ZA Stiles