

## Shaftsbury Planning Commission

April 13, 2021

### 1) Call to order.

The meeting came to order remotely at 6 p.m. via the Zoom platform. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, Naomi Miller, and Martha Cornwell (who arrived a little later). Also present was Development Review Board chair Tom Huncharek and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

### 2) March 23 minutes.

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

### 3) Kennel bylaw

Mr. Williams asked to omit as an appendix the reference to Vermont Animal Welfare Regulations, [https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Animal\\_Health/Animal%20Welfare%20Regulations.pdf](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Animal_Health/Animal%20Welfare%20Regulations.pdf). Mr. Foley noted that it references 12 animals, which could be confusing. It was agreed to place a link to the document in the text of the bylaw.

A discussion was held as to whether it was might not introduce a conflict of interest to require the permittee to hire a consulting veterinarian to sign off on site compliance. Mr. Huncharek noted that tax payers cover the costs of inspections of his business. Mr. Foley said the voters would be more likely to be supportive if the town were not required to pay for inspections. No change was made to the existing proposal.

Mr. Foley said he'd called three veterinarians' clinics and all said they only required that the animal be licensed, that is, have up to date rabies shots.

It was agreed to cite the bylaw reference to fines.

Ms. Cornwell moved to accept the changes and approve the document. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed, to much fanfare, 4-0-0. Mr. Huncharek promised to have the DRB look it over. Ms. Stiles will send it town counsel after DRB review.

Relatedly, Mr. Williams asked for DRB input on a permit amendment bylaw. Ms. Stiles will go through the minutes and pull out what seemed to be a consensus of the PC on the issue (a document had not been drafted.) Mr. Huncharek will ask the DRB to review it.

### 4) Trails

Mr. Williams reported he'd talked with landowners Mance, Knafel, and Historical Society and all were willing to enter into an easement agreement to permit passage over their lands.

Ms. Miller said she thought the proposed trail needed a sort of trustees group to shepherd it to completion.

Ms. Cornwell reported she'd recently spoken with a member of the Rec Committee who admitted to being somewhat overwhelmed, so that group wouldn't be a likely possibility.

Mr. Williams said traffic on the Robert Frost trail indicates a desire for trail opportunities. Ms. Cornwell pointed out how it differed from a ridge line trail with no destination. She said Bennington College might send out work crews to help on the trail occasionally.

Only Mr. Foley was interested in pursuing the trail idea. He, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Cichanowski will arrange to take a walk to scope out how the ridgeline trail Mr. Mance proposes could be connected to the Town Forest. They will collect GPS points.

Mr. Williams thinks the willingness of three landowners provides a real opportunity to create a town amenity.

5) Other business

It was agreed that the PC would propose the following bylaw language, to be placed in a special conditions section: Private landing strips and helipads are prohibited.

As for next steps, Ms. Miller suggested the members come up with some ideas. Ms. Stiles will send out the list of actions contained in the Town Plan to help in that process.

(Note from ZA: bylaw hearing should address kennels, BLAs, and helipads/landing strips.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. (after dodging a hacking, in which five hackers were kept in the waiting room).

Notes by ZA Stiles.