

Shrewsbury Planning Commission  
**MINUTES**  
May 10, 2022  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Meeting was held at Shrewsbury Meeting House

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Open to public input

Steven Nicholson attended.

Following public input:

1. Call to order  
Meeting called to order at 7:00  
Attendees: Laura Black, Ryan Fitzbeauchamp and Melissa Reichert.
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision  
Agenda approved as presented.
3. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received).  
Laura suggested we add the summer break to the next agenda. Ryan was wondering about putting more energy out to recruit more people for the Shrewsbury planning Commission (SPC) like having an informal gathering for people to get to know what we do. We had discussed the idea of doing Shrewsbury day as a way to recruit new SPC members and get townspeople more familiar with what the SPC does.
4. Acceptance of meeting minutes of April 12, 2022 and April 26, 2022.  
Meeting minutes for April 12 were accepted as written.  
Meeting minutes for April 26 were accepted as written.
5. Preparation for meeting with the Selectboard on Flood Hazard Bylaw and Unified Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw Changes  
Laura handed out a copy of the letter and report sent to the Selectboard in January. Steven asked about changes and if we would have to resubmit the Flood Hazard Bylaw for State review. We felt yes if the changes were substantive and could impact our ability to meet the requirements. We are meeting with the Selectboard at 6:30 on May 18. SPC members should review the documents and the responses the SPC sent to Adrienne Raymond on her comments. Melissa will get the statute language on Boundary Line Adjustments for the meeting.
6. Meadowland Overlay – Review maps and analysis  
We reviewed the Maps of the meadowlands with the agricultural soils and slopes made by Steve Schild at the Rutland Regional Commission when Laura and Melissa met with him. A number of questions came up:
  1. Do the meadowlands get updated periodically based on existing vegetation?
  2. What year orthos were used for the current meadowland areas.

3. Is a 2 acre meadowland area a viable size for wildlife habitat? for grassland birds? for early successional habitat?

We also reviewed the data in the excel spreadsheets, one showing the acreage of each meadowland, the other show the acres of agricultural soils that overlap with the meadowlands. We discussed the importance of meadowlands and prime agricultural soils. Meadowlands are only 1860 acres out of 32,000 acres in the town. Of these 1860 acres 47% are agricultural soils.

We brought up the subject of maintenance of meadowlands. Tim Stout maybe sponsoring a walk/talk on habitat diversity that would include meadowlands. We also mentioned the subject of maintenance of meadowland soils for agriculture. Laura noted that towns don't have jurisdiction over agricultural practices.

We discussed next steps for the meadowland review.

- Laura suggested researching what other towns in New England are doing or have done in zoning related to meadowlands.
  - We may/will contact someone at VT F&W or ANR for information, answers to our questions.
  - Laura mentioned that we want to determine whether the current zoning for meadowlands needs to be made less or more restrictive, permissive or stay the same for development.
  - We also stated that we may want to add information in the Town Plan to support the zoning policies on meadowlands.
  - Laura noted (per Steven's input) that we may want to develop some specific conditional criteria that could be implemented when development is to occur in meadowlands. Steven described that conditional use permits have contained requirements such as - color of structures, mowing of meadow, prohibition of tree cutting.
  - What funding resources are available to support meadowlands? (NRCS for early successional habitat).
7. 2022 Projects/Tasks (assignment of duties for Town Plan Census update, UZS Maps updates  
Melissa has bookmarked the link to the census information so she can revise the tables based on census data in the Town Plan. When Laura and Melissa met with Steve Schild they went over changes to be made to the Zoning maps for the proposed zoning changes including the high elevation and preservation districts, slopes, and wetlands.
  8. Maps - work on list of edits needed for town plan maps  
This is on our to do list for this year. Laura looked at 24 VSA chapter 117 for the required maps for Town Plans. She noted that when we met with Steve Schild that we noticed that many of the Zoning and Town Plan maps are exactly the same.
  9. Planning Commission resources – tabled

Next Meeting May 24

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Planning Commission, Chair

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Date