

May 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Brenda Bowman, Gary Flynn, Mike Peckar, Vin Vignaly
Members Absent: Maeghan Dos Anjos, Ray DeSanti, John Hadley
Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:00 pm and announced that due to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, the meeting is being conducted via remote participation.

Motion by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Vignaly noted that he drafted and made requested edits to the Annual Report Submitted in March 2021 for 2020 Fiscal Year. Thank you to members who provided suggestions and edits.

Goodale St Property (formerly Malden Hill South) Parking and Drainage CPA Funding

Mr. Vignaly explained that the property survey was completed in December of 2019 by Milone & MacBroom for \$4,600; the trees were removed by Favreau Forestry in February, 2021 for \$3,300; and the gravel and grading work at the parking area was completed by J.R. Grady and Sons for \$7,000. The total amount expended to date is \$14,900 of the \$18,000 approved by the CPC. The next steps are to coordinate clearing and blazing of a single track trail that is currently generally marked out with orange flagging in the field. The culvert installation work was not completed due to lack of clarity with the changed scope. It was more expensive than anticipated because the requested quote did not include the work necessary to clear a 300' long path to access the ditch where the culvert was proposed to be installed. The Committee discussed other options such as a Boy Scout project or just moving boulders in place to make it more easily passable. Mr. Flynn will talk to someone he knows with the Scouts. Ms. Bowman asked about liability for a bridge and Mr. Flynn replied that the town is exempted for those kinds of lawsuits by the state.

Mr. Vignaly will contact the town administrator and contact the easterly neighbors, Namins, to review the status for debris removal. The need for a fence installation along the east property line near the entrance parking area may no longer be necessary due to the construction of a 3' high berm adjacent to the new parking during the grading.

The berries at the site appear to be both low bush blueberry and black huckleberry. Mr. Vignaly noted that he liked the sound of "Huckleberry Hill" better, but we await the botanist's determination. Now that parking is in place, signs will be needed once we determine the berry type. Greater Worcester Land Trust has committed to a sign for the trailhead name, similar to the one at the Malden Street parcel. Mr. Peckar will check on Trout Brook sign wording for a 'Rules' sign for hours of operation, leash and pickup requirements, and how they address issues regarding hunting. Mr. Vignaly will ask if the remaining \$3,000.00 can be used for informational signs and landscaping, or does it have to be turned back to the CPA.

Mr. Peckar will contact the abutter to the south, Mr. Minnich, to consider allowing the trails to extend into his property. Mr. Peckar has spoken with him in the past and he was open to the idea. Removing the barbed wire along the boundary (it was in place to keep the cows in the fields) should also be discussed.

Mr. Vignaly has been talking with the Holden Conservation Agent who is in the midst of updating the Holden Open Space And Recreation Plan. He will meet with her to discuss including this site in their Plan and to request their contractor, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission, conduct GPS location of the trail heads and trails for mapping.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. Vignaly noted that he has still not heard back from the attorney for the property owner for 77 Lee Street. The Brossi property along Prospect Street (the top priority parcel in the Open Space and Implementation Plan) is currently being developed into four single-family residential housing lots..

Other Business:

Mr. Flynn noted that there have been recent complaints with dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets in the cemeteries and town fields. There is a need for a dog park, to provide a safe and controlled area for dogs to be off-leash. The issue is not going away easily.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Upon motion by Ms. Bowman seconded by Mr. Peckar, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly