

August 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Senior Center, 120 Prescott St. Meeting Room

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 7:03 pm at the WB Senior Center.

Motion by Mr. Peckar, seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously. Mr. Vignaly stated that he would get the past approved minutes posted on the OSIC website.

Mr. Vignaly noted that Mr. Hadley (representing the Conservation Commission) has resigned from this committee and we appreciate his years of service. The committee is hoping to have another member of the Conservation Commission appointed to this committee soon.

Goodale St Property (formerly Malden Hill South) Parking and Drainage Through Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funding

Mr. Vignaly explained that the parking area work has been completed and paid for. He contacted Pat Crowley, who did not see an issue with using some of the remaining CPA funds for landscaping and regulatory signs at the new parking area. There is approximately \$3,000 remaining in the approved CPA fund for parking/trailhead improvements.

Mr. Peckar noted that the berries at the site are both Huckleberry and Blueberry, so the name of the property could be either. Ms. Bowman noted that the Town has a Naming Committee, so Mr. Vignaly will forward the request to name the trail with 4 members supporting Huckleberry Hill, 2 members supporting Blueberry Hill, and we'll see what they come up with before we ask Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) to create a sign.

The debris and dumped materials remain on the property. Mr. Vignaly had not contacted the Town Administrator to ask that the neighbor be 'encouraged' to remove the trash/debris that he has put on the Town property. He will follow up with the Town Administrator.

Mr. Peckar had not improved the trail markings or started cutting the trail. He will begin shortly and will contact Mr. Minnich again to discuss the possibility to extend the trail onto his abutting property. Mr. Minnich will also be asked if he could use his tractor to move a couple of boulders in the ditch to make a more easily passable crossing. Mr. Peckar was asked to at least get the opening to the trail from the parking area marked more clearly so that the trespassing onto the abutters property stops.

Discussion of options such as a Boy Scout project or just moving boulders in place to make the ditch crossing more easily passable. 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, but we still want the crossing to be stable. It was not known what entity, WB ConCom or GWLT, holds the Conservation Restriction authority. Mr. Vignaly will check his records.

Mr. Peckar had not checked 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. DeSanti will stop by to take a few photos of the signs to get the wording.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. DeSanti asked about potential acquisition of property that abuts the Devil's Den property that the town bought off Maple Street a couple of years ago. Mr. Peckar will look into it.

Dog and Park/Cemetery Issues:

Ms. Bowman and Mr. Flynn noted that recently there have been increased complaints about dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets in the cemeteries and on town fields. The town Facebook page had discussion that there is a need for a dog park in town to provide a safe and controlled area for dogs to be off-leash. This committee has a Dog Park subcommittee, but the last meeting discussions were that there are no feasible locations with willing owners. Discussion that the long lease required by the Stanton Foundation to get 90% financing is not required if the Town would just build it themselves using donations and volunteer/staff labor.

Discussions of the need/demand for a park reflected past experience that some owners want dog socialization, which a park provides; while others would just walk their dogs on the sidewalks and parks in town to just give them exercise. The idea of limiting the potential users to town residents and who would be responsible for policing the area, were discussed. The issue is not going away as there have been concerns raised about the problems recently at the cemeteries in town.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

Upon motion by Ms. Bowman seconded by Ms. Dos Anjos, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly