

December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Town Hall, 140 Worcester St. Meeting Room

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:45 pm at the WB Town Hall.

Motion by Ms. Dos Anjos, seconded by Mr. Flynn, the minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting were approved as amended, unanimously. Mr. Vignaly stated that he would get the past approved minutes posted on the OSIC website.

The committee has not been notified of another member of the Conservation Commission being interested in this committee.

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

Mr. Peckar met with Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) and they like the name they provided as Malden Hill South. Mr. Vignaly explained that the site is on Goodale Street in West Boylston and there is another Malden Street in Town that would be very confusing for residents. The committee received notice from the Town Administrator that the Naming Committee no longer exists, so whatever the OSIC chooses would be the name. The committee voted to name the area "Blueberry Hill" with Mr. Peckar the only opposing vote. He will contact GWLT regarding sign creation. It was suggested that the trail name could reflect the prior owner, Dr. Robert Tashjian, who was very supportive of Open Space efforts in town.

The Town Administrator advised Mr. Vignaly that cleanup of debris and dumped material should be coordinated with Kevin Duffy (DPW Director). Mr. Vignaly will talk to Mr. Duffy about property line demarcation, and cleaning up the trash on the property from 157 Lee Street.

Mr. DeSanti checked on Trout Brook sign wording for a 'Rules' sign for hours of operation, leash and pickup requirements, and sent photos to the committee. Mr. Peckar will discuss signs with GWLT. The town CPA money can be used for a reasonable cost for the rules signs and how they address issues regarding hunting.

Mr. Peckar indicated that GWLT is prepared to improve the trail markings and start cutting the trail this winter. Discussion of the need for a bridge will be determined by how the trail cutting goes. But a stable passable means to cross the ditch is needed. Mr. Peckar added that he has been in contact with Mr. Minnich who was supportive to extend the trail onto his abutting property and tie into the fitness trails that already exist there. 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.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. Peckar asked about 77 Lee Street. Mr. Vignaly had called and left a message with the Foreclosure attorney at Deutsche Bank but received no response.

No further information about potential acquisition of property in the back of Hartwell Street 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. Mr. Vignaly indicated that 127 Hartwell Street had submitted a site plan review with the Planning Board and the upland portion of this area is likely going to be developed under that proposal.

Dog and Park/Cemetery Issues:

Ms. Bowman and Mr. Flynn noted that complaints continue about dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets in the cemeteries and on town fields.

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 issue is not going away as there have been concerns raised, but there was no interest in expending the effort to re-establish the Subcommittee.

The question of zoning limitations were raised in another local community and the Tivnan Drive site is located in a Conservation District, but the specific uses allowed were not known. A request should be sent to the building inspector asking about a municipal dog park.

Ms. Dos Anjos announced that she would be resigning from the OSIC due to family and employment changes. Mr. Vignaly thanked her for her responsiveness to emails and meeting attendance and the committee wished her luck. Mr. Vignaly noted that there will be open positions in the future!

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Upon motion by Ms. Dos Anjos seconded by Mr. Peckar, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly