

December 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Town Hall, 140 Worcester St. Meeting Room

Members Present: Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Ginny Rose Pellegrini, Vin Vignaly
Members Absent: Mike Peckar, Bill Chase Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:03 pm at the WB Town Hall. The committee observed a moment of silence to honor the many years of service to this committee from Mr. Gary Flynn. His commitment and positive attitude will be missed.

Motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Mr. DeSanti to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2023, meeting were approved 4-0-1, Ms. Pellegrini abstained because she was not present.

Mixer Field Plan Review – Mr. Vignaly was contacted and circulated the video link to the Parks Facilities Committee meeting where the Mixer Field Repair plans were being reviewed. The video shows that the chair stated that the field will not be a multi-use field, but dedicated to women’s softball. This will be done by constructing the outfield fence such that it will be a barrier to soccer, lacrosse, and baseball. Mr. DeSanti asked why it was changed from what was the action item in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Mr. Vignaly will review the presentation at Town Meeting approval for CPA funds because his supporting information clearly stated that the field improvements would be for a ‘multi-use field’. This may warrant a complaint to the Selectboard to investigate compliance with the CPA rules.

Blueberry Hill Property - 353 Goodale St Property Discussion of the kiosk was tabled again because Mr. Chase was not present and has not provided the design of the kiosk. Mr. Peckar is working with Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) to fabricate a sign for “Blueberry Hill” like the sign at the Pine Glen property on Goodale Street. Mr. Vignaly noted that the corrections to the map available on the OSIC and the GWLT websites has not been done as noted in last meeting minutes.

18 Malden Street Acquisition:

Mr. Vignaly explained that O’Hara-Buthray Assoc. Inc. completed the appraisal and the Town Administrator provided the results to the owners before GWLT met with the realtor/owners to discuss options. The owners believe that the appraisal is too low. GWLT discussed the costs of subdividing and splitting the property for the town to acquire the unbuilt portion, but no response was received.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP)

Mr. Vignaly checked with the Town Administrator and there has been no progress on the State grant to hire CMRPC to do the update. Ms. Pellegrini has located the past survey and will work with a member of the Parks Commission to draft a survey. Members were asked to contact anyone they know who might be interested in working on the citizen survey, they can start any time now.

Open Space Properties of Interest

Mr. DeSanti asked about the status of the Jake’s Cafe property. Mr. Vignaly noted that this property has been purchased along with the abutting Nutrition Source property and have plans for a combination commercial/affordable housing project, but no applications have been received by the Planning Board.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 25. Upon motion by Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. DiSanti; committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly