

Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2016
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA

Members Present: Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Gary Flynn, Mike Peckar, John Hadley, Barbara Wyatt, Vin Vignaly

Others Present: Robert Dunne-WB Parks Commission, Danielle Mucciarone-CMRPC

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:05 pm. On a motion by Ms. Wyatt and a second from Mr. Peckar, the minutes of the 5/17/16 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):

Ms. Mucciarone reported that there have been 165 responses to the Open Space and Recreation Survey thus far. The survey response was a statistically significant portion of the townspeople, a better response percentage than from a similar survey in Shrewsbury, once the non-voting 1,159 inmate population was removed.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Public Forum on June 2 had about a dozen attendees who provided helpful feedback and some ideas that will need to be investigated for implementation in town.

Ms. Mucciarone reported that the building inspector has completed the forms for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, though a review by a documented ‘handicapped user’ is strongly encouraged.

Mr. Peckar reported that his attendance with Ms. Mucciarone at the 7/11/16 Parks Commission meeting was positive and they are working to provide feedback and suggestions as this Update proceeds. Mr. Dunne was in attendance and agreed with this statement and he and Mr. Flynn will help to continue the progress. Mr. Peckar also noted that West Boylston is a member of the Greater Worcester Land Trust which is the organization that assists with land and preservation restriction acquisitions in Town. This should be included in the OSRP.

Ms. Mucciarone distributed the edited Goals and Objectives and asked members to review these and provide feedback. She also circulated a draft of the Action Items that remain from the old plan and asked members to review and provide her with additional Action Items before the next meeting. She will summarize the information already received and distribute the information electronically in the next week or two.

Mr. Dunne reviewed the information he provided from the Parks Commission regarding facilities use and needs. He explained the recent planning efforts from the Commission and the need to formulate the ideas to be implemented over the next 7 years as well as to plan for the longer term. Mr. Vignaly noted that the Parks Commission see the demands for field space in town, but most townspeople drive by and see nobody in the parks most of the time. We will need to include documentation in the OSRP to support the statement that additional fields are needed and not simply better management.

Ms. Bowman suggested the OSRP should address the need for Senior parks and recreation facilities and opportunities. Not only is there the Women’s Softball League, but many seniors play tennis, walk the track, bicycle, and walk on the sidewalks. The OSRP should reflect this use and desire to increase opportunities for seniors in town.

The OSRP should include information that the town is moving forward with a Complete Streets Policy that incorporates improvements for bicycling and pedestrian use with all roadway and transportation-

related projects in town; as well as the Town Administrator's coordination for optimal use of the Goodale Park Master Plan results to help the Parks Commission implement the portions that are likely to be supported at Town Meeting.

Open Space Protection Acquisitions Status:

Mr. Peckar reported that the Town has almost completed the acquisition of about 23 acres of land in the rear of 263 Maple Street. The DCR purchased a portion of the property and the owners have sold the remaining two lots. The Committee asked Mr. Vignaly to email the Conservation Commission in support of them voting to acquire the property for the town.

Mr. Peckar continued noting that the GWLT is in the process of acquiring a Conservation Restriction on a 12-acre property owned by Dennis Minnich with frontage on Goodale Street in West Boylston. The adjacent 13 acres is being acquired by Holden and a schematic of a trail system with no building allowed is taking shape.

Next meeting was suggested as Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 6 pm to give time for drafting and circulating the DRAFT OSRP by CMRPC; so member can read it and give them comments at this meeting. The schedule is to have the OSRP completed by the end of September for review and a quick presentation at Town Meeting in October. It has to be accepted by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen before it is sent to the Division of Conservation Services for their review, comments, and hopefully acceptance.

Upon a motion by Ms. Wyatt, and seconded by Mr. Peckar, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly