

Meeting Minutes – October 13, 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 (late).

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Dunne-WB Parks Commission

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peckar at 6:20 pm. On a motion by Mr. Flynn and a second from Ms. Bowman, the minutes of the 9/15/16 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):**

The most current OSRP draft was not made available to committee members ahead of this meeting. There was discussion on the many errors in the last seen draft. There was discussion on the fact that the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) had consumed most of the hours for their work on the OSRP, along with some discussion about payment for the work. Several members indicated their preference to have hard copies for review. Later in the meeting when the Chair arrived, he briefed on the status of the remaining hours and noted that the Planning Board had recently voted to allocate the remaining balance of the town funds budgeted for local planning assistance to this work. The chair agreed to email the latest draft to those who want it that way and to provide printed copies for the others. The remaining agenda items regarding the OSRP were tabled since the committee was unable to finalize the draft at this meeting. The committee agreed that the meeting previously proposed for the final public forum on the OSRP on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm will instead be a regular meeting of the OSIC committee to finalize the OSRP.

**Vote on Recommendations on Warrant Articles for October Town Meeting:**

There was favorable feedback provided to Mr. Peckar on the remarks he prepared and shared via email with the committee prior to the meeting. Those remarks were to be made at the Oct 17<sup>th</sup> town meeting in support of Article 3. A motion was made by Ms. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Flynn that the OSIC committee endorses Article 3 on the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 town meeting warrant as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Other Business – Dog Park:**

Ms. Bowman reported that she attended the most recent meeting of the West Boylston Municipal Light Plant (MLP) to discuss a possible dog park. She reported that her suggestion to place the park at the Town Dump was rejected, but that they suggested a dog park would be an excellent fit for the 30 acres of land behind the Solar Panel installation on Shrewsbury Street and off Paul X Tivnan Drive. She reported that the MLP offered to install parking on that site for that purpose. There was discussion, which included mention of the email sent by Ms. Bowman to the Chair then forwarded to the OSIC email list on 9/27 regarding the availability dog park construction grants that typically range from \$100,000 to \$225,000 according to information posted on the Stanton Foundation website, [thestatonfoundation.org](http://thestatonfoundation.org).

Mr. Dunn had some great input on the discussion, suggesting a process and noting that a dog park has already been placed on the agenda of the Parks Commission. He recommended that OSIC send a representative to one of their meetings and to the DPW as well. He noted the Parks Commission meets on 11/7, 12/5, and 1/9. The committee agreed to form a subcommittee to promote a dog park. This committee was tasked to do some initial research on park designs and funding sources, develop a conceptual map of the park and meet with the Parks Commission, the DPW and eventually the board of selectmen. Mr. Peckar and Ms Bowman volunteered to join this subcommittee.

**Other Business – Justin Howard:**

The email sent by Ms. Lucier to the OSIC email list on Oct. 12 regarding Justin Howard's use of the town website's contact form was discussed. The message on the form was "I am a West Boylston resident and home owner. I am in a wheelchair, and have been disabled for the last 20 years. I'd like to be active in town." Ms. Bowman noted she is acquainted with him. When the Chair showed up he confirmed there are currently no open slots on the OSIC committee for new members and took the action item to reach out to Mr. Howard to request that he assist in reviewing town accessibility documentation.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hadley and seconded by Mr. Flynn, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Peckar