

Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2016
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA

Members Present: Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Gary Flynn, Barbara Wyatt, Vin Vignaly.

Members Absent: John Hadley, Mike Peckar

Others Present: Robert Dunne-WB Parks Commission, Michelle Brown

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:02 pm. On a motion by Ms. Wyatt, seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the minutes of the 10/13/16 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Dog Park Discussions

The Town's concerns mentioned are that the recently-fenced in athletic facilities: Baseball field, softball field, and the tennis courts all have had increased use by dog owners who have not picked up after their pets. There have been many complaints of dog feces on the fields where children are playing. The OSIC welcomed Michelle Brown, who is attending because of her interest in establishing a dog park in town. She uses similar facilities in surrounding towns and is willing to help evaluate standards and specifications to be considered for one in town. She explained that they are fenced areas of under an acre and some have water available, but are mostly managed by local volunteers. The major concerns raised included liability, construction funding, user limitations (who-WB Residents, what-Small/large/both?, when-seasonal/daylight hours?, cost-fee/permit?), accessories beyond a fence system-water/lighting, maintained by, trash pickup, parking/plowing needs, and approval protocols. Mr. Flynn noted that the Parks Commission has this on their next agenda and is very interested. The Parks Commission would manage it if it is located on land where they have jurisdiction, but the Selectmen could transfer the property to them if not already so situated.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):

The OSRP was reviewed, first to include changes and thoughts from Mr. Dunne and Mr. Flynn representing the Parks Commission, then page by page with Mr. Vignaly compiling notes that he will forward to Danielle Mucciarone at CMRPC in the next week. Edits needed should also include the issues noted in the approved minutes from 9/15/16

A timeline for moving forward was discussed, but without Ms. Mucciarone's input no decisions could be made. Mr. Vignaly hoped to have a final draft OSRP circulated to those present before the 11/22 meeting and if approved, circulate that to the full Parks Commission, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Planning Board, Conservation Commission. He will request a single page summary sheet and invitation to a Public Forum from Ms. Mucciarone. We can schedule the Public Forum at our next meeting.

Open Space Protection Acquisitions Potential Property List:

Mr. Peckar was praised for his presentation and for getting the October Town Meeting to support the acquisition of the 12.5-acre property (Malden Hill South) owned by Mr. Minnich on Goodale Street.

Next meeting was suggested as Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 6 pm to review the final draft and prepare for a Public Forum on the OSRP Update.

Upon a motion by Mr. DeSanti, and seconded by Mr. Flynn, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly