

Public Forum/Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2017
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA

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

Others Present: Dan Daniska/Rob Raymond-CMRPC, Robert Dunne/Jim Pedone-WB Parks Commission, Justin Howard, Kristen Payson-Banner Editor, Chris Rucho, Barbara Bernardin, Elise Wellington, Lawrence Salate, Marc Frieden, Jean Costello, Dave Femia, Barur Rajeshkumar

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:02 pm. On a motion by Mr. Peckar, seconded by Ms. Wyatt, the minutes of the 2/28/17 meeting were unanimously approved.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):

Mr. Vignaly welcomed everyone present and those watching via cable tv. He noted that comments can be submitted through the town's website until 3/18/17 and there is a phone line to call in comments tonight. The Parks Commission and Open Space Implementation Committee are interested in feedback on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP) being presented tonight. Because it is very closely related to this plan, and also focuses on pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (CSPP) is being presented and feedback from the public is desired. The outline of the powerpoint slides is included at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Hadley, Selectman on the OSIC, began the presentation covering the overview and general makeup of the OSRP; Mr. Pedone, chairman of the Parks Commission, reviewed the current status and future goals for the Parks facilities; Mr. Peckar, OSIC member, covered the current extent of open space in West Boylston and presented the goals for open space improvements; and Mr. Daniska, CMRPC planner, reviewed the State Complete Streets Program process and the work CMRPC has completed to document the current conditions in town and to compile locations where improvements can be implemented. The Complete Streets Program involves prioritization of the needs in town and then those may be submitted to the State MassDOT for construction funding up to \$400,000 per year.

The following comments were noted:

1. Ms. Wyatt asked about possible bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Route 12 at the railroad crossing. Mr. Dansika had viewed this area and since there are hard stone abutments owned by the railway, the feasible options will be limited to pavement marking and signs. This will be included in the CSPP.
2. Ms. Costello complemented the OSRP, and asked about the 2016 survey response rate. There were about 160 surveys returned in 2016 (similar to the number returned in 2013). She asked how to preserve the limited (1.7% of town) town-owned undeveloped open space. The OSRP encourages private property protection through the Chapter 61 land protection and donations from property owners.
3. Ms. Wellington – The Goodale Park Master Plan is not available to the public, so she could not properly evaluate the OSRP without knowing the intended facilities and significant costs. The plan and summary of costs will be added, with a link to the full document in the OSRP. She noted that the population data indicates that school-aged children has decreased from 2000-2015 and should be noted and assessed in the OSRP.
4. Ms. Wellington noted that the previously-included action item to improve vegetative plantings within recreation areas to provide buffering for neighbors has been removed. It will be included in the updated draft. Mr. Pedone noted that the town has trees stored at the Mixer property, but it

was questioned how many remain viable after the drought last year. Mr. Hadley noted that during Selectmen discussions of tree planting they consider the need to water and maintain these.

5. Mr. Pedone noted that in regard to Goodale Park, the baseball fields and the track do not meet the MIAA standards, and therefore the track team cannot have home meets. Discussion of minimum needs standards being designed instead of top-of-the-line facilities were suggested for 'value-engineering' the conceptual design.
6. Ms. Wyatt noted that the Goodale Park Master Plan concept layout appears to make the area a "Sports Complex" instead of the traditional "Park".
7. Mr. Rucho noted that it is tough to see, but there are walkways included throughout the area to improve handicapped accessibility.
8. Ms Bowman asked about short-term needs to correct the ponding water at the corner of Crescent and Goodale Street, as well as widening the bicycle lanes along Crescent Street from the center of town.
9. Ms. Wyatt noted that Exhibit 18 on p. 55 needs to be updated to reflect the current private properties in town that could be acquired.
10. Ms. Costello asked that the table inserted into Map 10 should be updated and included in the narrative to describe prioritized lands.
11. Mr. DeSanti asked that the CSPP prominently include the bicycle improvements needed along Route 140 in town, especially near the Boylston Town Line and through the center of town. He was concerned with the narrow section as noted earlier on Route 12 under the railroad crossing.

The people in attendance were encouraged to mark up the Sidewalk Map and Bicycle Map that CMRPC brought to the meeting for the CSPP work.

Upon a motion by Mr. Peckar, and seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly

3/21/17 Public Forum PowerPoint Slide Info

**PUBLIC FORUM
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN
COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION
WEST BOYLSTON
MARCH 21, 2017**

**OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
&
PARKS COMMISSION &
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CMRPC**

**OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN PURPOSE
PROMOTE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS
REQUIRED FOR STATE GRANTS
ASSESS OPEN SPACE CONDITIONS AND NEEDS
ASSESS PARKS FACILITIES CONDITIONS AND NEEDS
ASSESS WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS
COMPILE IDEAS FOR NEXT 7 YEARS
GUIDE EFFICIENT CAPITAL SPENDING REQUESTS**

MEETING PURPOSE

PRESENT WORK COMPLETED TO DATE
LISTEN TO PUBLIC'S THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS
INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS IN FINAL PLAN

PLAN CONTENT

Plan Summary
Statement of Purpose
Planning Process and Public Participation
Community, Regional, and Historical Context
Population and Growth Patterns
Environmental Inventory
Geology, Soils, Topography, and Landscape Character
Water Resources, Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife
Scenic Resources, Unique Environments, and Environmental Challenges
Private and Public Parcels of Interest
Recreational Facilities and Usage
Recreational Facility Handicapped Access Evaluation
Community Vision
Analysis of Local and Regional Needs
Goals and Objectives
7-Year Action Plan

PARKS COMMISSION

Jim Pedone, Chairman

7 FIELDS
2 BASKETBALL COURT SITES
2 TENNIS FACILITIES
1 PLAYGROUND

PARKS FACILITIES USAGE

USED FOR SCHOOL RECESS/GYM CLASSES
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
TOWN SPORTS PROGRAMS
SOFTBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, TENNIS, etc.
SCHEDULING OF >1,000 USERS
COORDINATION OF >1,250 GAMES/PRACTICES

RECREATION PROGRAMS

PART-TIME DIRECTOR POSITION IS NEEDED

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

NEW PRACTICE FIELD AT OLD POOL LOCATION
FENCING AROUND HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL AND LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS
NEW PROBLEM WITH OFF-LEASH DOG USAGE/FECES
NEW WATERING SYSTEM AT GOODALE PARK

GOODALE PARK FUTURE

PARKS COMMISSION CONSIDERING NEEDS & COSTS

PARKS ACTION ITEMS

EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR GOODALE PARK IMPROVEMENTS
FILL RECREATION DIRECTOR POSITION
EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR SWIMMING/WATER FEATURE
EVALUATE TRACK IMPROVEMENTS TO ALLOW SCHOOL USE
ENSURE FIELDS are in MIXTER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS
COORDINATE WITH PRIVATE LAND OWNERS FOR FACILITIES' USE
IMPROVE HANDICAPPED ACCESS
IMPROVE ELDER ACCESS & SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS

HOW MUCH OPEN SPACE IS THERE?

Mike Peckar, Open Space Implementation Committee

A LOT – BUT

DCR OWNS 40% OF THE TOWN

TOWN OWNS ONLY 2.5% INCLUDING BUILDING SITES

TOWN OPEN SPACE - ONLY 1.7% (PARKS, RAIL TRAIL, CEMETERIES, etc.)

MUNICIPAL LANDS MAP 9A IMAGE

SURVEY RESULTS JUNE 2016

TOP REASONS THEY MOVED TO WEST BOYLSTON

TOWN CHARACTER, OPEN SPACES, ACCESSIBLE COMMUTE

88% - IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE & NATURE

MOST USED TOWN FACILITIES

LIBRARY, RAIL TRAIL, GOODALE PARK, & SIDEWALKS

HIGHEST PARTICIPATION

PASSIVE RECREATION-WALKING/HIKING, INFORMAL USE, SCHOOL/PARKS

SPONSORED PROGRAMS

MORE SURVEY RESULTS JUNE 2016

MOST NEEDED FACILITIES

POOL, RECREATION CENTER, BIKE TRAILS, DOG PARK

MOST IMPORTANT TO FUND

SWIMMING FACILITY, OPEN SPACE @ TOWN WELLS, SIDEWALKS

EVALUATE DOG PARK OPPORTUNITIES

POTENTIAL 2-ACRE SITES

DCR - GOODALE STREET

TIVNAN DRIVE

90% FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT FROM GRANT

NEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

“TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON DOG PARK INTEREST”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155217284971511/>

DOG PARK SCHEMATIC IMAGE

OPEN SPACE ACTION ITEMS

ACQUIRE HIGH PRIORITY PARCELS

ENCOURAGE CHAPTER 61 PROGRAMS

IMPROVE WALKING/SIDEWALK ACCESS

IMPROVE BICYCLE ACCESS AND SAFETY

INVESTIGATE FENCED DOG PARK

IMPROVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS ON PUBLIC LAND

SUPPORT RAIL TRAIL ALONG PLEASANT STREET TO STERLING

COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION

Dan Daniska & Rob Raymond, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission

POLICY WAS ENDORSED BY SELECTMEN IN MAY 2016

THIS PRIORITIZATION WORK IS FUNDED BY MASSDOT

OPPORTUNITY FOR \$400,000 IN STATE FUNDING, ANNUALLY; ONCE PRIORITIZATION PLAN IS COMPLETE

COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS CAN INCLUDE:

TRAFFIC AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

BICYCLE FACILITIES AND ROADWAY LANE IMPROVEMENTS

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

**TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR BUS STOP SHELTERS OR RAILROAD CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS
AND MANY MORE...**

COMPLETE STREETS GOALS

**HOLISTIC REVIEW OF NEEDS, SAFETY, & GAPS
CONTEXT-SENSITIVE, NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL
IMPROVE ACCESS BETWEEN HOMES, SCHOOLS, WORK, RECREATION, AND RETAIL
DESTINATIONS
DEVELOP A CONNECTED, INTEGRATED NETWORK TO SERVE ALL USERS – AUTOS, BIKES,
PEDESTRIANS**

COMPLETE STREETS ACTION ITEMS

**DEVELOP/IMPROVE SIDEWALKS WITHIN 1 MILE OF SCHOOLS
REMOVE GAPS IN SIDEWALK ROUTES
UPDATE SIDEWALK PLAN TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
CREATE BICYCLE LANES TO IMPROVE SAFETY
NEAR TOWN SCHOOLS
ALONG ROUTE 140
ALONG ROUTE 110
ALONG ROUTE 12**

COMPLETE STREETS ACTION ITEMS (CONT.)

**EVALUATE EAST-WEST ACCESS ROUTES TO BUS AND RETAIL AREAS FOR LOW INCOME
AND ELDERLY
EXPAND SHOULDERS FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY
BEAMAN STREET
CRESCENT STREET
TEMPLE STREET
THOMAS STREET
WORCESTER STREET**

FIELD DATA COLLECTION RESULTS/DRAFT PLAN FRAMEWORK

**FILL IN GAPS IN THE NETWORKS
REPAIR SIDEWALKS THAT ARE SUBSTANDARD
IMPROVE ACCESS/SAFETY TO COMMERCIAL AREAS**

SIDEWALK PLAN IMAGE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC?

**COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED
CALL-IN NUMBER 774-261-4006
PREVIOUSLY-LEFT MESSAGES**