

August 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA

Present: Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Maeghan Dos Anjos, Gary Flynn, John Hadley, Vin Vignaly
Members Absent: Mike Peckar
Others Present: Bill Chase-Conservation Commission Chair, Mr. and Ms. Hartigan, Mr. and Ms. Baker, Mr. and Ms. Namin, Mr. Shamayru, Mr. Vangos, Mr. Najjar, and Ms. Lucier

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:05 pm. Motion by Mr. Hadley, seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the minutes of the July 18, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Blueberry Hill (formerly Malden Hill South) Parking and Drainage CPA Funding Request

Mr. Vignaly reviewed the history of the 12.5-acre property purchased by the town in 2017 at the top of Goodale Street, north of Lee Street for open space and recreation. Goodale Street is windy along the frontage and there needs to be a safe parking area to utilize the land for hiking, cross-country skiing, and other passive recreation. The Conservation Commission and OSIC have submitted a request for funding to the Community Preservation Committee to survey the property, remove some trees to create a drive to an area for parking about 6 cars, and to install a drainage pipe to cross an existing ditch. There are markers on the property showing the proposed parking/driveway areas. Abutters were concerned with potential strangers in their yards, noise and criminal activity in the parking area, and motorized vehicles on the trail. It was explained that the legally-binding Conservation Restriction on the property is very limiting. The trail will be wide enough for hiking, and nothing like the Rail Trail in Oakdale. A single small roofed structure with no walls is allowed under the Conservation Restriction, but it is not being considered at this time. There will be no parking allowed after dark and no motorized vehicles allowed on the trail. The area will be monitored by the town police and plowed by DPW in the winter. No additional lighting is proposed. A single sign will be install to remind people of the benefits gained from their taxes paid to the CPA funded projects, similar to the one on the property at the bottom of Lee Street next to the town wells.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. Hadley noted that he found the property owner for 77 Lee street. It was believed to be in foreclosure so a purchase for open space and to protect the neighboring town well could be feasible. Ms. Bowman will investigate further to get contact information.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Thursday, September 26, 2019.

Upon motion by Mr. Hadley, seconded by Mr. Flynn, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly