

DRAFT
September 26, 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, Mike Peckar, Vin Vignaly

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ms. Lucier-Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:02 pm. Motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Dos Anjos, the minutes of the August 22, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

A special mention was made to thank Ms. Barbara Wyatt for her selfless work as a member of the OSIC from 1994 (or so). She was a part of every Open Space and Recreation Plan that has ever been produced for the Town of West Boylston. Her positive attitude, knowledge, and historical records will be sorely missed now that she is retired from our committee. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

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

Mr. Vignaly reviewed the need for a safe parking area to utilize the land for hiking, cross-country skiing, dog-walking, and other passive recreation. The application submitted for funding to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was approved for \$18,000.00 to survey the property, remove some trees, complete minimal grading to create a drive to an area for parking about 6 cars, and to install a drainage pipe below a trail to cross an existing ditch. Mr. Peckar noted that Greater Worcester Land Trust spoke with the Holden Town Planner who was supportive of the idea of having parking on the existing paved turnaround/stub road on the north side of Malden Street, Holden. There is an abutting 13.5 acres of protection open space in the Town of Holden where trails are envisioned. Ms. Lucier noted there may be funds for a sign/kiosk for the property, since the Greater Worcester Land Trust typically only installs a name sign on their properties. Ms. Lucier will also get back to the Committee to coordinate the drainage work being reviewed by the Selectboard to address stormwater ponding and icing on Lee Street.

Parks Facilities Committee (PFC) Proposal to CPC for funding:

Discussion of the request from PFC to CPC for over \$150,000.00 to hire architects and engineers to consider extensive changes at the Mixter softball field and the Woodland Park areas. Discussion of the questionable need for this and the difference from the intentions noted in the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. There is no mention of the prioritized items, but propose deck hockey to replace much-used tennis courts. The general consensus was to oppose this work.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. Vignaly noted that he contacted the attorney for the property owner for 77 Lee Street from Ms. Bowman. He was told that the property was bought back by the bank at the auction in August(?). They have no intention to sell at this time, but Mr. Vignaly told the attorney that the OSIC is very interested and would pay for an appraisal to establish the value of the property.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

Upon motion by Mr. Peckar, seconded by Mr. Flynn, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly