

Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2017
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA

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

Members Absent: John Hadley, Mike Peckar, Barbara Wyatt

Others Present: Michele Brown

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:00 pm. Motion by Mr. DeSanti, seconded by Ms. Bowman, the minutes of the 6/26/17 meeting were unanimously approved.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):

The committee reviewed the section containing the list of available grants for projects. It was suggested that a list should be compiled of specific action items and the associated grant programs that may provide funding. Mr. Vignaly noted that no response has been received from the Department of Conservation Services regarding the OSRP submitted in July.

Mr. Vignaly summarized the information he gained from attending a Trails Planning meeting with CMRPC for all central Mass communities. The project is currently compiling available information on trails in each community and way/websites that are currently being used. Representatives from West Boylston, Sterling, and Princeton were in attendance and stressed the need to have DCR-Wachusett provide information on their trails. A DCR-Wachusett staff member, Kelley Freda, was there to hear what was being planned and will bring information back to the director. Mr. Vignaly provided a copy of a trail guide from Sturbridge MA for review, and handed out a notification of the 2017 Mass Trails Conference scheduled for November 2-4 in Leominster.

Dog Park Subcommittee Report:

Ms. Brown said she has met with the Selectmen and the Municipal Lighting Board for permission to use about an acre and a half of the land on Tivnan Drive for the dog park. The property needs to be owned by the town or have a 99-year lease to qualify for the Stanton Foundation funding. There have been inquiries from the Town of Boylston, but a firm denial of cooperation was received from the Boylston town administrator. Ms. Brown continues to work with the Town Administrator to keep things going.

Properties of Interest:

Mr. DeSanti asked about the status of allowed uses at the recently-acquired Minnich land on Goodale Street. Mr. Vignaly noted that the Brossi property on Prospect Street is still the top priority due to the pressure to develop it. A new site with about 23 acres on Laurel Street, owned by Ms. Ingrid Monkiewicz should also be added to the listing in the OSRP.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2017, when hopefully, the comments on the OSRP are received from the state Division of Conservation Services.

Upon motion by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly