

September 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Town Hall, 140 Worcester St. Meeting Room

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

Members Absent: Bill Chase

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:00 pm at the WB Town Hall. Motion by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. DeSanti: the minutes of the August 3, 2023, meeting were approved 5-0.

Blueberry Hill Property - 353 Goodale St Property

Discussion of the kiosk was tabled because Mr. Chase was not present and he has not provided a draft design of the kiosk yet. Mr. Peckar is working with Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) to fabricate a sign for "Blueberry Hill" like the sign at Pine Glen on Goodale Street, and it is under construction. Mr Vignaly asked to update the map to remove reference to anything but Blueberry Hill and add a QR code so that people can get the map on their cell phone. Signs are still needed, noting funding came from CPA money and for regulatory wording to address hours of operation, rules, hunting, leashing dogs, no camping without a permit, and no fires. Mr. DeSanti and others will forward photos and information about operational/rules signs at similar trails in abutting communities. Mr. Flynn will contact local landscaping professionals to gauge their interest in a donation or working with the town to properly landscape the parking area.

18 Malden Street Acquisition:

The GWLT board voted to support us in acquiring the property. Mr. Peckar motioned to select O'Hara-Buthray Assoc. Inc., as the appraiser and authorize the Chair, or Town Administrator, to endorse the contract to appraise the 18 Malden Street property, and approved having GWLT act as an intermediary with the owners, if needed. Then added that any work in excess of \$5,500.00 would require prior approval from the OSIC Chair. Ms. Bowman seconded, all voted in favor, 5-0.

FY23 Open Space Implementation Committee Annual Report

Mr. Peckar motioned to submit the draft Annual Report to the Town Administrator. Ms. Bowman seconded, voted 5-0 in favor.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Mr. Vignaly checked with the Town Administrator and the grant to hire CMRPC to do the bulk of the update will not be received until the Holidays. But since the OSRP is approved, the town is eligible for the associated grant opportunities through November 2024. If anyone has the contact information for people interested in starting the citizen survey, they could start any time now.

Open Space Properties of Interest

Mr. Peckar, Ms. Goodale, and Colin at GWLT contacted Ms. Trow at 153 Crescent Street and confirmed her intent to donate the land as open space to GWLT. More details will follow. This property has been on the 'properties of interest' list for over 10 years.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for early October when the appraisal results are in. Upon motion by Ms. Bowman, second by Mr. Flynn: committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly