

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Town of Tisbury
Department of Public Works
115 High Point Lane, Tisbury, MA

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2021

Meeting called to order: 8:36

Place: This was a virtual meeting, in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current state of emergency. There is no in person attendance by the public, but persons may access this zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92944209153>

Meeting ID: 929 4420 9153

Passcode: 573468

Attendance: Committee – C. Doble, G Hokanson, C. Wallis, H. Stephenson
Chris Seidel, Nancy Tutko, P. Wallis

Minutes: January 5 and 19 - were approved 3-0

Discussion

1. Report from Chris Seidel

G. Hokanson introduced Chris Seidel the MV Commission Cartographer and GIS Coordinator and Nancy Tutko who works for Sherriff's Meadow. G. Hokanson has been working with the two of them to document Tisbury Trails and develop online mapping. Most recently he had discussed the possibility of documenting our trail routes on the outings section of the Trails MV App. The Committee has been enthusiastic about this potential and is especially interested in the ability to identify points of interest and to provide a text narrative on each of them. Chris joined us to share story mapping, a new Arch GIS tool that can incorporate images, PowerPoints and audio/video presentations with online maps.

G. Hokanson noted that when you use the MV Trails App there is a marker that locates your position on the map. He finds this feature very helpful. C. Seidel replied that the story map could also show the walker's location on the route. She felt that there are opportunities to cross reference between the MV Trails App and the story mapping. N. Tutko asked how user friendly the Story mapping is and C. Seidel replied that the software was relatively friendly. N. Tutko mentioned that the outings feature on the App is very similar to the program that C. Seidel was describing and that by having a link to the story maps on the MV Trails App the two programs would complement each other. G. Hokanson liked the fact that he could transition from the Trails MV App to the story maps.

Referencing our West Chop route, Nancy Tutko asked if it was necessary to stay on the road. She wondered if the route might not include West Chop Woods or Old Light House Road? She also

mentioned that Brenden O'Neil would be helpful in identifying ancient ways if we ever thought of including them in our trail system. G. Hokanson explained that we have not yet been able to resolve the inclusion of private roads on designated trail routes. He also said that the West Chop route was designed to give people options to reduce the length of the walk by taking crossroads to turn back. He also brought up the value of providing walking distances between locations on the route to help walkers select routes that fit their time and endurance levels.

N. Tutko liked the idea of collaborating on the development of trails and story mapping with the Town, Museum, Sherriff's Meadow and other local groups. She felt that local groups would be able to create authentic learning experiences. H. Stephenson noted the value of linking trails to the Ferry Terminal so that they would be easily accessed by visitors getting off the ferry.

C. Seidel said that the first step in the story map would be to identify points of interest and collect pictures and stories. She felt that the committee could do that work. N. Tutko said that the outing map needs to be drawn manually, and that it is not possible to save a draft. Therefore, it is important to gather all the information so that it can be added at one time. Once it is published it could be edited. C. Seidel thought that it would be best to create the Story Map first and then do the outing.

N. Tutko mentioned that there is a slide show feature when you open and get information on the Trails MV App. She thought that this could be used to feature the Tisbury Trail and to encourage using the story map. P. Wallis mentioned using a program that was similar to the story mapping when he was working at Audubon. He said that that it was easy for people to use and very successful. He was going to share a link with N. Tutko so she could review that work.

G. Hokanson recommended that the committee begin by gathering information (photos and story narratives) for C. Seidel and that this information could also be shared with N. Tutko for the Trails MV App. N. Tutko reminded the group that the text for points of interest on the Trails MV Outings needs to be limited because it is being viewed on a phone.

2. Next Steps in Park assessment

C. Doble reviewed the progress on the four park worksheets. After adding Kirk's notes, she and C. Wallis were going to make an initial assessment of park priorities for each of the parks and create a five-year timeline to guide our progress. G. Hokanson suggested that we use a more generally defined timeline of near term, mid-term, and long term. C. Wallis noted that we will probably be able to implement some projects right away. However, we will need to develop budgets and, at some of the parks, plans will be required as a first step. She also mentioned that we will need to be mindful of funding opportunities and will need to pay attention to grant cycles. Grant preparation takes time and there is generally period of time between submittal and notification, a deadline for completion and in many cases matching funds are required. All of this takes careful planning. G. Hokanson suggested that we look out to 2023. C. Wallis also suggested that we identify tasks that could be done by volunteers.

3. Town Counsel

C. Doble reviewed the email that we received from Town Counsel and noted that he suggested a follow up conversation. She agreed that would be necessary and contacted J. Grande and D. Donseski to set up a time for further discussion. She felt the recommendations related to the protection of Tashmoo seemed overly complicated and the issue of private roads was still unclear. H. Stephenson brought up the issue of public use of private roads and special ways over time. He wondered if this history of long-time use might support continued public use of a road. G. Hokanson mentioned that many residents don't mind people walking on their private roads but they don't want them on a map to promote public walking.

4. Updates

- Benches: C. Doble reviewed our previous discussion and our recognition that our varied park settings-- from village to woodland -- would require different bench types. She reviewed the different benches that we had discussed -- rustic stone and timber benches for woodland areas, the current concrete and wood bench at many of our parks, teak benches, and wood benches with metal arms. She mentioned the importance of arms to help seniors getting on and off the benches. H. Stephenson remarked that the bench on the lagoon with metal legs and arms with imitation wood was not holding up well. He spoke about the need to pay careful attention to the materials that we use especially in our damp marine environment. G. Hokanson liked the teak benches used by Sherriff's Meadow along their trails. These benches have arms and they seemed to fit well in these natural settings. H. Stephenson suggested that we might investigate different hard woods that would hold up and weather well over time. It might be possible to use these woods to restore some of the concrete benches. He also reminded us that we might contact the school to see if students would be able to help with bench construction. H. Stephenson is going to contact the Land Bank to see who has constructed their "rustic" benches. C. Doble is going to follow up by pricing some of the various benches with arm rests.
- New members: C. Doble mentioned that she had sent information to two individuals who had expressed interest in serving on the Committee.
- Marine terminal: C. Doble contacted Pat Harris about town review of this project and was informed that the Site Plan Review Board had already completed their review. Eventually the planning board will review the project, but the application has not been submitted yet. C. Doble mentioned that B. Robinson brought up the committee's interest in the public open space and visitor information at the recent MV Commission LUCP meeting. B. Robinson suggested that the committee contact Richard Andre directly to discuss our ideas. C. Doble will call R. Andre to schedule a meeting with the committee.

5. Agenda items for the February 16th meeting

- Updates - Benches, Marine Terminal, new members
- Review Park Assessment Sheets - next steps
- Gathering information for West Chop Trail
- Outreach

G. Hokanson move to adjourn the meeting at 10:30. H Stephenson seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Submitted by C. Doble