

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 16, 2021

Meeting called to order: 8:33

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/93124561665>

Meeting ID: 931 2456 1665 Passcode: 670568

Attendance: Committee – C. Doble, G Hokanson, C. Wallis, H. Stephenson
K. Metell
Richard Andre, Mack Bryan, Nancy Weaver

Minutes: February 2, 2021 approved 3-0

Discussion

1. Presentation and discussion with R. Andre and M.?

- R. Andre presented the history/background of the Vineyard Wind Project and an overview of the proposed Marine Terminal. He noted that the Marine Terminal project is currently under review at the Martha's Vineyard Commission and will be reviewed in April by the Tisbury Conservation Committee and Planning Board. He discussed the design steps that have been taken to make the facility resilient in the face of potential climate change impacts. He discussed various aspects of the facility including the building, docking for the wind turbine service boats, and the parking area on raised piers.
- He shared a new drawing that illustrated the public overlook and steps down to a small beach. He noted the two cross walks approved by Mass DOT that provided pedestrian access to the Terminal building and to the overlook. In this new perspective, the beach seemed a bit larger than in earlier drawings. R. Andre said that they want to work with the town and appreciated the committee's interest in a well-designed public overlook and stairs down to the beach. He reported that J. Crocker, the town Harbormaster, is working on comprehensive dredging plan for the harbor and that some of the dredge spoils could be placed at this location to increase the beach area.
- H. Stephenson shared his sketch with the group to illustrate opportunities to expand and enhance public access. The sketch proposed expanding public access along Beach Road by

removing a limited number of parking spaces, and the addition of interpretive exhibits on offshore wind. He thought that if the pedestrian space was enlarged that they might be able to eliminate one of the crosswalks. During the discussion committee members pointed out the desirability of enlarging the beach by moving the closest groin and wondered if it would be possible to provide fishing access at the end of a pier or from one of the groins.

- H. Stephenson mentioned the committee's interest in story mapping along walking routes in town. C. Wallis expanded on this and mentioned the town's interest in the Blue Economy and involvement in the Expedition Blue. R. Andre noted that he is extremely interested in the potential for interpretive and educational exhibits and that he had talked to the museum about a possible exhibit in the future. He explained that there is a story to tell from whaling to energy production and now to wind power.
- R. Andre said that he understood the committee's suggestions but that he will need to talk further with his engineers to see what could be accomplished.

2. Preparing materials for the West Chop walk

- G. Hokanson reviewed C. Seidel's recommendations for gathering photos and stories that could then be shared with her to create the story map. G. Hokanson has created folders on Google Docs to collect this information. He has also developed text for the West Chop walk and invited the committee to review and edit this text. C. Wallis said that she had been in touch with Bow Van Riper, historian at the museum, to identify additional historic stories that could be included in the West Chop story mapping. The museum has a photo collection and she thought that it would be possible to include some of the historic photos to help walkers appreciate the historic character of the site and the change that has or has not occurred.

3. Park Assessment and planning

- C. Wallis reported on the work that she and C. Doble had completed to identify maintenance needs, ADA improvements and projects that might be undertaken over the next two years. C. Doble reviewed some of the priority projects and explained why these were seen as priorities. C. Wallis explained that they were planning to review these sheets with K. Metell and would then like to discuss this material with the committee members. K. Metell thought that we would gain community support if we could get some traction and accomplish a few of these projects.

4. Benches

- C. Doble reviewed our previous bench discussions. She felt that we are looking to add benches with arm rests in all our parks to meet the needs of seniors. She also thought that we were interested in simpler, more rustic benches along wooded trails and that there was interest in looking at restoring the concrete benches if we could accomplish this with a low maintenance solution.
- H. Stephenson reported that he had reached out to Ian Peach at the Land Bank to learn more about the Land Bank Benches and was waiting to hear from him. C. Wallis had identified a 6 ft teak bench with armrests that sold for \$600 - \$700.00. C. Doble said that she had looked on the

Bosco website. Barco is a company that sells products for public spaces and recreation areas. She noted that the bench prices are lower than some that she had seen, but she questioned the durability of the Barco benches. The legs and arm rests are cast aluminum with powder coated paint and that the slates, while they look like wood are plastic. H. Stephenson mentioned that a bench of similar construction on the Causeway is not holding up well. The paint is peeling, and the plastic does not weather well. We need to recognize that the marine environment can be tough on materials.

- C. Wallis reported positively on the benches she had seen on the Sherriff's Meadow trails and suggested that we find out where they bought theirs. N. Weaver suggested that we contact S. Silk who had worked with Sherriff's Meadow to purchase benches that were then assembled by volunteers. N. Weaver thought that they might have some extras that had not been used. S. Silk confirmed via phone over the zoom meeting that she did still have some benches. H. Stephenson volunteered to follow up with S. Silk. C. Wallis volunteered to talk with the high school to see if their students might be able to help with the design and construction of benches. K. Metell volunteered that if the school was interested in working with the town on construction projects that they would be able to help with a number of projects including -- benches, picnic tables and Pavilions and sheds. the high school students

5. Agenda for March 2, 2021 meeting

- Updates
- Benches
- Park Assessment next steps and review
- Outreach

H Stephenson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55. C. Wallis seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Submitted by C. Doble