

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2021

Meeting called to order: 8:32am

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 Meeting ID: 913 9074 4692 Passcode: 301520

Attendance: Committee – C. Doble (CD), G. Hokanson (GH), C. Wallis (CW), J. Burrows (JB)

Discussion

1. Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 4/6/21 and 4/20/21
 - GH moved, CW seconded
 - Motion approved.
2. Story Mapping - Ferry Terminal to West Chop Tour - Final Steps
 - GH asked the Committee to test out the story map on their phones and provide feedback. The storymap is easy to see on the computer and may pose more challenges on a phone. GH will resend the link to the Committee.
 - C. Seidel will add a map of the entire route so a user can view all of the sites, see length of the route and make it easier to plan their route.
 - C. Seidel will confer with Nancy Tutko/Sheriffs Meadow about steps needed to turn the storymap into a Trails MV Outing, accessible on the Trails MV app. We had discussed that this version would need to be much shorter in terms of text and photos.
 - GH has contacted the West Chop Club about any concerns they might have regarding putting the West Chop overlook, piers and clubhouse on the tour. The Committee agreed that more language needs to be added to the text to indicate that private sites should only be viewed from the road.
 - It was discussed that we need to have the Select Board review the storymap tour before it is finalized and made public. This would be an opportunity to get them excited about this new opportunity to explore Vineyard Haven. CD will work on scheduling a presentation of the tour via screenshare at the Select Board meeting on 5/25.

3. Tashmoo Springs Building – Request for Use for a New Restaurant
 - CD provided the Committee with a letter from Paul Adler to the Town requesting that he be able to convert the springhouse building into a new restaurant that would bring new vitality and use of this special spot in the town.
 - It was discussed that there is an issue of trying to convert parks to different uses when people don't see them being used – i.e. Church Street tennis courts into a parking lot and now Tashmoo Springs. The Committee has been working on protecting Tashmoo Springs. An approach has been discussed about creating an open space zoning district that would include parks when the zoning code is redone, which would resolve this need.
 - There was concern about the septic capacity, amount of public funds that have been spent to restore the property, dramatic change to the quiet nature of the park and pond, and impact on immediate neighbors.
 - It was decided that CD will reach out to the Tashmoo Springs Committee to set up a joint meeting to discuss. The OSR Committee's intention has been to meet with the Tashmoo Springs group to review how to increase the use of this property and what improvements need to be made to increase public access and enjoyment. This joint meeting should happen quickly as a response needs to be sent back to Mr. Adler.
4. Update on Coordination with DPW/Kirk Metell on Park Maintenance
 - CD and CW had a meeting on 4/28 with Kirk to review our sheets detailing maintenance tasks that DPW does/will perform at the parks. Kirk reviewed the budget that he has for annual maintenance - \$30,000 for park maintenance (irrigation, fertilizer, parking lots, picnic tables, trash containers, trees); Groundskeeping; Equipment. We agreed that we needed to review the status of maintenance at the end of the year and see if we need to be asking for a larger Park Maintenance Budget to handle the work that needs to be done on an annual basis. We also discussed the possibility of planning for a new Parks staff person to initiate and manage programming, user fees and needs and marketing of the parks.
 - Kirk indicated he had hired a new employee with arborist experience and landscaping, so he can task this person with working on the tree issues the Committee has raised.
 - The Committee discussed the need to start early on providing input on next year's park maintenance budget, so we can advocate for more funding to cover tasks Kirk wasn't able to accomplish and tasks not currently addressed that DPW feels should be done.
 - CD related that the CPC Committee is not pleased with how many CPC projects Tisbury has not completed and that they may want to take this into serious consideration before approving any new projects. CD will review the list of CPC-funded Tisbury projects, as it appears that many are completed or will be in the near future. It is clear that the pandemic slowed down many projects and prevented them from moving forward.
5. Review of Year One Action Items Completed/Not Completed
 - CD reviewed a list of the OSR Year One Goals and noted those items that were not completed or even started. It was agreed that most of the items were still important and should be moved to the Year Two list. See attached Year One Review.
 - CD will develop a report that will detail what the Committee accomplished so that we have a record going forward of our work and accomplishments.

- CD reviewed Year Two Park Projects. These need to be incorporated into a Year Two Action Agenda. See Year Two list attached.
- It was agreed that the Committee members would review the projects and be prepared to indicate which ones they wanted to work on, how to organize parks to get more energy in the parks – at our next meeting on 5/18. Cheryl will send out a full Year Two Goals/Action Agenda.

6. Adjourn

- GH moved, CW seconded, motion approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 18, 8:30am.

Submitted by C. Wallis

Action Agenda – Year One

Items Not Completed – All to be edited into Year Two Action Agenda

Goal 1: Stewardship

- Report on Action Items completed in Year One - Cheryl
- Indicate changes for Year Two – Cheryl to edit into Year Two Action Agenda
- Annual Assessment of maintenance – to do in Fall
- Budget to fund maintenance in future – assess with Kirk in fall
- Meet with potential partner organizations - Polly Hill, Cultural District, TWI, Garden Club
- Volunteer Work Event – event that can be accomplished – involve Kirk. Include volunteers for specific help – plants, grant writing, etc.

Goal 2: Improve recreation facilities.

- Hold focus groups to identify programmatic needs – Lake Street neighbors
- Pocket Parks - Cultural District
- Nurseries - affordable plants

Goal 3: Create network of pedestrian, bike and water routes.

- Complete MOU with Land Bank and Town – Cheryl to follow up with atty.
- Funding sources for connecting gaps between open spaces and trails. Share with Select Board – work with Land Bank, Sheriff's Meadow
 - Cemetery/School to Tashmoo Springs – will need a sidewalk, need cost est.
 - W Chop Woods to T Springs
 - Ramble to Park & Ride
- Begin to evaluate potential bike routes – James to meet with bike riders- find friendly routes through town. Consult with Bill Veno, MPC.

Goal 4: Increase Waterfront access

- Work with other non-profits on interconnectivity on waterfront. Examples - Cultural district - Green necklace approach, walkway starting at Beach Road end/overlook through to Vineyard Wind new beach. - Possible CPC app in future for plan of same. Construction \$ - Mass Works, Complete Streets, COVID \$, PARC
- Address runoff issues and improve waterfront access - Drainage Planning, may take separate funding.
- Develop policy guidelines for private development to create waterfront access - with Planning Board – master planning process - network connections included in plan.

Goal 5: Assure preservation of existing Open Space

- Complete protection of Tashmoo Springs Park – open space zoning?
- Participate in Tisbury Master Planning Process

Action Agenda Year Two

Merge above remaining action items into Year Two

Goal 1: Stewardship

- Timeline for long-term projects
- Annual maintenance and Cap Improve Budget

Goal 2: Improve existing recreation facilities and add new

1. Owen
 - a. Decision on bandstand costs and design
 - b. Contract Docs
 - c. Start/complete construction on Upper Terrace – 2021-2022
2. Veterans
 - a. Concept plan for seating - fan benches, other benches and picnic tables, entry treatments – include in CPC application for “stuff” 2021
 - b. Concept plan for drainage and facilities – Meet with Horsley Witten about approach and costs – circular walking path, location of ball fields and playground area, picnic area, fencing and landscaping, including stormwater/wetland basins and green catchments that integrate with the recreation facilities
 - c. Review EPA Study and include in Concept Plans
 - d. Cost estimates
 - e. Discuss funding with appropriate funders.
 - f. CPC application for plan - 2021
3. Church Street
 - a. Manage communications – soon - re warrant. Article in paper. Get School PTA to make a statement at Town Meeting.
 - b. Final cost estimate from Cape Islands & Tennis
 - c. Coordinate on bids and construction
4. Lake Street
 - a. Neighbor meeting re facilities/desires for Park
 - b. Concept plan for upper and lower parks, parking and cost estimate, ADA parking spaces
 - c. Discuss funding with appropriate funders.
 - d. CPC application for ADA parking space at Upper Park - 2021
5. Tashmoo Springs
 - a. Meet with Spring House Committee
 - b. Meet with Jane Varconda re field path and mow the path
 - c. Advertise new path in paper
 - d. Meet with TWI – long range plan for pond
6. Lagoon Pond Park
 - a. Concept plan for overviews and connected path
7. Ferry Terminal - New
 - a. Participate in planning for new heritage park at ferry terminal, including overlook and access to beach
8. Vineyard Wind Beach/Marine Terminal - New
 - a. Work with Vineyard Wind on design, construction, permitting of new beach
9. Other

- a. Meet with Sarah Dingley, Principal of the High School re ability of students to make park entry signs, pavilions – Veterans, Tashmoo Springs
- b. Meet with John Crocker
 - about dredge spoils replenishment – Owen Little Way, Grove Street, Lagoon Pond Street End, Marine Terminal.
 - Dinghy removal and possible auction
- c. Beach Entry mats – Grove, Owen Little Way, Lagoon Pond street end – include in CPC “stuff” application. Need costs.
- d. Blue Trails – Lake Tashmoo, Lagoon Pond – coordinate with Sheriffs Meadow
- e. CPC funding apps –
 - Park Plan for Veterans Park
 - ADA parking space development – Lake Street
 - Equipment and stuff – benches, beach entry mats, pickle ball nets, tennis equipment for Church Street
 - Trail gap – School/Cemetery to Tashmoo Springs – sidewalk costs, approval for go through Water Dept site and costs.