

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2021

Meeting called to order: 8:35am

Place: This was an in -person meeting at the DPW offices and a virtual Zoom meeting, in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current state of emergency.

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 995 3947 9292 Passcode: 228103

Attendance: at DPW - Committee members - Cheryl Doble (CD) Carolyn Wallis (CW), Henry Stephenson (HS), and Nancy Weaver (NW) (visitor)
 on Zoom – Committee members - Gerry Hokanson (GH), James Burrows (JB)

Discussion

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 6/1/21
CW moved; HS seconded. Motion approved 5-0

2. Updates

A. New Meeting Time

It was agreed that the Committee would meet at the DPW office on Mondays, 10:30am – Noon. If others are invited to attend the meeting, they will be scheduled for 11:30am.

B. Tashmoo Springs Building Letter from Paul Adler

- The Committee reviewed a letter intended to be sent to the Select Board by the Tashmoo Springs Building Management Committee. JB recused himself from the discussion.
- It was agreed that CD would ask the TSB Committee to revise the letter to delete most of the third sentence that referenced members of the Open Space Committee.
- There was a motion for HS to draft a letter for review by the OSR that would indicate that the Spring House building is a unique public resource and should not be converted to a private restaurant at this time. Motion was seconded by CD, approved by a 4-0-1 vote.

C. Walking Paths and Trails

- GH has reached out to Nancy Weaver and Margaret Curtin to form a trails subcommittee.
- CD will reach out to Connie Alexander who also expressed interest in joining this group.
- The subcommittee plans to walk the proposed trails and others in Tisbury and come up with walking route recommendations.

D. Subcommittees

- As we continue to grow our work plan, committee members should form smaller work committees of Tisbury or other residents to help do the “work”. Committee meetings can then be reports of subcommittees and full committee discussion and feedback.

E. Bike Routes

- CD will connect JB and Nancy Weaver and Bill Veno of the MPC who manages an island-wide bike and ped committee.
- JB will connect with local bike enthusiasts about routes they take through Tisbury that could be promoted as bike routes through and out of town and to destinations.
- Bill Veno is also invited to attend our next OSR meeting.

F. Owen Park and Benches

- Construction costs being developed by Ben Kelly are anticipated soon.
- CD received a very reasonable quote for three 3-seater teak benches from Patio Contract and sent that to Tisbury procurement for ordering.
- We could use the same benches at Church Street, but will need to find funding for that. One bench has already been donated; the donor just needs to know the amount to gift to Tisbury for this purpose. CW will ask KM about funding sources for two more benches.

3. Year Two Action Plan

A. Plan Document

- CD will create one document including CW, CH and CD work plans. Committee members will be leads for certain tasks and others can join as desired.

B. Tasks

- Maintenance Budget – need to work with KM on this later this summer.
- CPC Funds – applications are due for initial scopes in September. Committee members need to think about this source of funding for their projects and what the level of funding would need to be.
- School Playground – assume there will be a large ask for CPC funds for the playground. If the School Project does not pass, there will still need to be a playground planning and construction project. In either case, the OSR Committee will collaborate with the Tisbury PTO and School Committee on the redo of the playground. Considerable work would qualify for recreation funding. Some might qualify for open space CPC funds, which is the least used category. There will likely be a CPC request from the school in the fall.
- Potential Grants – CW will complete the list of potential grant sources for different uses and circulate to the Committee.
- Walking Paths – GH noted that walking paths are in the parks – Veterans and Lake Street – and through open spaces. He would work on all.
- Timing and Scheduling – CD noted the issue of how long it takes to complete a project in Tisbury once it is funded. We need to engage KM and the Select Board about this issue and how the Committee might help to accelerate project completion timing.
- Waterfronts and Water Trails– HS noted that the new Tisbury Waterways Committee which he attended discussed the need to redesign the pier at Owen Park. He spoke with the committee about the potential for the new pier to be more user-friendly for boaters, to consider safety for swimmers and recreation for kids. The TWC also discussed the proposed “dune” that would

protect the waterfront commercial district from storm surge flooding. The dune would extend along the on the Vineyard harbor waterfront from the SSA terminal beach end to the Shell gas station. Possibly some type of boardwalk could be developed inside of the dune to allow the public access to the beach. There will be more presentations on the dune concept. The study also proposed a berm separating Veteran's Park from Mud Creek. CD and CW will follow up on that as it would have implications for a plan for Veteran's Park. HS and CW will work on the two Blue Trails suggested – Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo.

- Lagoon Pond Park – HS and JB are walking the Lagoon Park area to review possibilities for a walking path through that area and developing a concept plan. All committee members are welcome to join.
- Lake Street Park – This summer would be a good time to have a meeting of neighbors to discuss what they want to see in the park. HS has old designs of a natural play area that could be used for ideas. The aim would be to come out of that meeting and develop a new concept plan for the park that could then be sent to KM for a cost estimate, so we could then seek funding to implement. The Assessors Office has lists of names and addresses that would be used to send out letters to neighbors inviting them to a meeting. CD will inquire how such a mailing could be funded. Dan Doyle has offered to walk around the neighborhood and knock on doors to get neighbors to come.

4. Outreach

A. Coordination with other Orgs

- CD suggested working with other partner organizations such as the Visit Vineyard Haven and the Chamber to see if they can include a page/link on their website for Tisbury Parks and Events. We would create a link from the Town website, where the parks information is currently buried within several layers and create a page for partner websites that can be linked to.

B. Web Design

- CD suggested getting help from an IT group or student class at the regional high school.

C. News Articles

- MV Times articles also good. Need to get an article on the West Chop Loop Trail Storymap.

5. Volunteers

CD reported that Ruth K. is interested in being on the Committee. CD will follow up and see what her particular interests are.

6. Other

JB asked if the Church Street Courts could be opened this summer. CW will speak with KM. We could leave the gate open, put up the nets, clear up the weeds and put on additional clay. Bags of weed killer salt and clay are in the shed.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by CW, seconded by GH. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56am.

Next Meeting – June 28th, 10:30am at DPW Office

Submitted by C. Wallis