

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 25, 2021

Meeting called to order: 10:30am

Place: Zoom

Attendance: Committee members - Cheryl Doble (CD) Carolyn Wallis (CW), Henry Stephenson (HS), James Burrows (JB), Gerry Hokanson (GH)

Discussion

1. Meeting Time

It was agreed that the Committee would meet the first and third Monday of each month, 10:30-12 noon, by Zoom until further notice.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 9/13/21

- CW moved; HS seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Updates

- Select Board Meeting – Presentation of OSR by Cheryl Doble on 9/22. The Select Board was supportive of the four OSR CPC applications proposed.
 1. Owen Park Walkway & Drainage
 2. Veterans Park Plan – CD will send final scope to CW and GH for review. Plan would be \$33,000.
 3. Tashmoo Springs – Kirk acknowledged that DPW can mow the field and the field walk and widen the woodland trail around half of the pond. CD will follow up with the Tisbury School science teacher and GH will follow up with the Felix Neck educator re ideas for their use of the pond and use of proposed platform and overlooks. This project is to be supportive of youth education. HS will review the proposed projects and speak with Steve Ewing about a concept design that would be an attachment to the application and collect the photos of Steve's projects. CD will speak with Jane Varconda about the projects and if any permitting will be required. CD spoke with John Crocker and he is on board with the proposed projects.
 4. Park Amenities
- CPC Application submittal – CD met with Kirk and reviewed all proposed CPC projects. Kirk submitted all four applications. Final applications are due October 8th.
- Owen Park Benches – three wooden benches with metal arms have arrived and will be installed by DPW at the Upper Park.
- Trails – GH provided updates on trail activities.

- Herring Creek Road – Land Bank has opened a walking path on the eastern side of the roadway along Herring Creek Road between Daggett Avenue and Ashton’s Way (end of divided road). Boulders have been placed so that cars cannot attempt to drive on that side. There is also signage indicating that the walk leads to Tashmoo Beach. A map of the route is not yet on the Land Bank’s web site.
- Pathway to the Old Sailor’s Burying Ground was approved by the Land Bank. GH will meet with the Land Bank about timing of building the newly approved path.
- Tashmoo peninsula meets the Land Bank strategic goals for public beach access and preservation of natural spaces, so these same standards might work for other Tisbury parks and walkways that might need improvement.
- Trail from SSA to Lagoon Pond Road beach end – GH has received extensive information from Bow Van Riper at the MV Museum that would be added to a new storymap of this trail. HS will provide current photos of Veterans Park, one of the stops along the trail.
- Standard design for parks at road ends – Beach Road, Lagoon Pond Road, Grove Street. HS recommended that we develop a standard set of items that should be at these road end “parks” – trash cans, bench, bike rack.
- Ramble Trail to Land Bank’s Beech Tree Preserve – GH is proposing this walking route, which will pass the former Innesfail Hotel and old Oklahoma development areas. GH will set up a time for the committee to walk this route. For those interested in walking through the Beech Tree Preserve, the parking area is located on the west side of Vineyard Haven Edgartown Road, across from Park Avenue.
- Trail from Tashmoo Spring Pond to the Water Department and Tisbury School. GH noted that there are safety challenges in approaching West Spring Street coming from the Water Department property, as there are steep grades ending at the road surface. Sheriff’s Meadow has suggested a series of wooden steps built into the grade nearly parallel to the road on the Water Department side of West Spring. However, this requires a landing area which the DPW would need to help design. This would be a walking path only as it would be too steep for biking. GH will work on setting out the trail alignment. Phase II would be developing the actual trail on both sides of West Spring including access to/from the Tashmoo Spring Park. SMF has offered to help with this.

4. Vineyard Wind Project Update

- Vineyard Wind showed the original overlook and beach access plan to the MVC at a public meeting. Their strategy is to get approval for this original design and then, if desired, present a revision for a change in the scope of the overlook/water access proposal. This will provide time for the Committee to work further with Vineyard Wind to consider additional improvements in Lagoon Harbor Park.
- Jay Grande and Jeff Krystal met with Vineyard Wind about making improvements to Lagoon Harbor Park. There was some discussion of this idea at the MVC public meeting, although it was not presented as a plan.
- It was decided that the OSRC would continue to develop our drawings for Lagoon Harbor Park and invite Jay Grande to one of our next meetings to share our ideas. HS pointed out that there are extensive views of the harbor all along Beach Road, so an overlook is not really needed. CD is seeking a plan that is reasonable, safe and accessible.
- CD will write a letter of support about the Committee’s general support for the Vineyard Wind project and its proposed public access and development of public amenities as a key part of the project.
- HS will schedule a time this week for the Committee to walk along the proposed Lagoon Harbor Park and see if Richard Andre can come with. Issues would be where to locate parking, overlooks of the pond, picnic table or benches.

5. Owen Park Upper Terrace Celebration

Jay Grande is planning to have a town celebration of the Upper Terrace completion. All of the OSR should attend and help celebrate this accomplishment.

6. MVC Bike and Ped Advisory Committee Public Meeting

CD attended the BPAC public meeting on Zoom. One issue was the lack of information about bike regulations on the island, especially for those coming off the ferry in both VH and OB. Our aim has been to come up with preferred routes for family biking and provide maps to visitors. CD suggested working with private road associations to help on this. Nantucket promotes itself as a “bike-friendly” community. We need to find out what it takes to claim that title. If there are “share the road” signs in the street, everyone needs to be educated about what that means and what drivers are supposed to do.

CD asked JB to see if the BPAC would help identify quiet bike routes and with signage. JB has spoken with Bill Veno about signs that would lead from the SSA to preferred routes, so bikers can be directed from VH to West Tisbury, but no action has been taken. It was suggested that the Land Bank might be of help in developing a bike route from the VH Park ‘n Ride to Old County Road, where cyclists can pick up other bike routes. JB will contact Nancy Weaver and Lillian Robinson about quiet bike routes through VH and continuing through to WT. JB also suggested that information on routes might be provided to ferry riders who purchase a bike ticket. They could be directed to a website or app to find suggested routes through VH to OB and WT for families and expert riders. JB will share maps with BPAC and see about identifying current gaps in possible routes.

7. DPW Rep to the OSR

CD will ask Kirk M. if he can send a delegate from DPW to the OSR meetings, since there are so many discussion items that involve the DPW and we need to be able to more easily resolve and act on those issues and concerns.

8. Owen Park Bandstand

CD reported that the Select Board discussed this issue and want to get something done. CD is going to contact Keith Moscow and see if and how he would suggest altering his design to lower the cost. The Select Board is supportive of private fund-raising to make up the difference between what the design will cost and the CPC funds allocated. The \$30,000 of funds raised by a Paul Doherty fund-raiser have not been spent, so there is a total of \$180,000 available for the project. CD will report back to the Select Board once Keith Moscow has reviewed the design.

9. Park Mapping

HS has spoken with Chris Seidel about getting good GIS contour base maps of all of the parks. CS indicated that she might be able to license our committee to use her license to the island maps. CD will invite Chris to an OSR meeting to discuss.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by CW, seconded by HS. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting – October 4, 2021, 10:30-noon. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting.

Agenda to include: Owen Park Bandstand update, Lagoon Harbor Park update, Tashmoos Springs Park Plan

Submitted by C. Wallis