

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 4, 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. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 9/25/21
 - HS moved; GH seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Updates
 - Owen Park Bandstand

CD has reviewed the estimates that totaled over \$300,000. Funds available include CPC funds of \$150,000 and private fundraising of \$30,000. CD has brought down the estimate to \$240,000 with removal of sanitary and landscape costs and a recalculation of contingency and overhead. If the steps were removed, the total is approximately \$194,000. CD will be meeting with Keith Moscow to see if he can figure a more affordable design. Funding possibilities for additional funds include a State PARC grant, private fund-raising and phasing the project.
 - CPC Projects

All applications are due in final with full budget estimates by Friday, October 8th. CW, GH and CD all wrote applications and will develop final pdfs for Kirk Metell's signature within a few days. CD will contact Nancy Weaver about a photo of the Tashmoo Beach mobi mat, to be included in the Tisbury Park Amenities application and HS will develop a simple park plan for Tashmoo Spring Park which CW can add into the Tashmoo Spring Park Trail and Public Access application.
 - Church Street Tennis Courts/West Chop Club Proposal

JB expects to receive a proposal from West Chop by the end of the week. The Church Street Court bid is still in process. CD will meet with Kirk and press for this to go out. There is an issue of scheduling court construction, assuming the bid goes out and a contractor gets an award this fall. Tennis court contractors are extremely busy and schedules are filling up. It was decided that if construction could start in the middle of next summer that it go forward, so we can show some progress, as opposed to keeping all courts open as-is and waiting until fall for new construction. We need to keep up community support and show progress, even if it means that the courts are closed for some period next summer.

- Lagoon Harbor Park

CD sent a letter to the MVC supporting the Vineyard Wind project and indicating that our expectation is that they will work with the Town on meeting our needs for public access. MVC had asked for comments on the proposed overlook. Our letter was generally supportive of public access, but not specific that there needed to be an overlook on the harbor side. GH will contact the MVC for a copy of the Vineyard Wind presentation, so we can be clear about the overlook plan that was submitted. CD has a commitment from Vineyard Wind to spend \$500,000 on a community benefit towards public water access and recreation. One issue is that they may have to provide public access to the beach by the new terminal to meet the chapter 91 requirements. If that were determined, it would mean that not all of these funds could go to a new Lagoon Harbor Park. It was decided that ORC should continue to develop ideas for a new Lagoon Harbor Park and share them with the Conservation Commission and the Select Board.

HS shared a plan for the new park, that augments more sustainable elements such as biking and walking, rather than driving and parking. The bike path along Beach Road would be continuous through the park and would be realigned when it crosses the Town Landing to create a safer crossing across the boat launch to the bridge and a corner overlook that would feature views of both the harbor and the pond. Parking for the Lagoon Harbor Park would be in a designated area at the boat launch. The salt marsh along the pond could be readjusted to be more functional – HS will speak to the Con. Comm. about that. This would provide a better beach for families and a better functioning salt marsh feature. Another feature is the creation of a stable shore walk from the beach to Winds Up in the area of present debris and strewn pieces of the former roadway. This path would end up at a kayak launch next to Winds Up. The current shellfish pull off would become an attractive overlook with picnic tables, but no parking. The existing crosswalk by Winds Up would remain and a second crosswalk would be created by the shellfish overlook, with the possibility of some parallel pull off for cars along the edge of Beach Road. On the harbor side, the groins could be levelled off and become fishing piers and a possible shore revetment walkway could be created between the groins on levelled off stones. This would augment walking along the harbor shore. The concept is to emphasize bikes and pedestrians and enjoyment of views of both the harbor and the pond.

JB was concerned about the large scale of the proposed Vineyard Wind wharf and its use as a parking lot. CD indicated that it appears to be proposed for use for the catamaran pier, including storage and loading of equipment. Comment letters on the project are due to the MVC by Monday afternoon.

It was agreed that a next step will be to set up another harbor park walk and invite Jane Varconda, Con. Comm. to come and review the feasibility of these ideas.

3. Next Meeting Agenda

Possible agenda items – discussion of plans for Tisbury School playground and status.
CD asked the Committee to suggest other items.

4. Adjournment

GH moved; HS seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting – October 18, 2021, 10:30-noon. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting.
Submitted by C. Wallis