

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2023

Meeting called to order: 4:01pm

Place: Zoom

Attendance: Committee members - James Burrows (JB), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Henry Stephenson (HS), Carolyn Wallis (CW)
Others Attending: Greg Politz, Dan Doyle, Nancy Weaver

Approval of Minutes

CW moved that the Minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting be accepted. HS seconded. Resolution carried 5-0.

1. Old Holmes Hole Road Connection to West Tisbury Bike Path

- Greg Politz, Dan Doyle, and Nancy Weaver joined to discuss the feasibility of using the Old Holmes Hole path to connect Tisbury to a proposed WT bike path. All attendees were offered the opportunity to comment on the condition of the current path (through Town and Land Bank property) and the feasibility of improving it. A summary of the comments follows:
 - The current path is approximately 6 feet wide throughout. This is less than the desirable 10-ft width. It was agreed that the feasibility of widening the path was low.
 - Widening the path, and paving or adding a more solid and consistent surface, was felt to unacceptably alter the character of the current path and might not be acceptable to the Land Bank.
 - Some bikers could use the path as is, but it's not family friendly. One suggestion was to post signs that communicate to bikers the nature of the path and the type of bike suitable.
 - Vegetative growth on both sides of the path during the warmer months could further narrow it and reduce sight lines, potentially raising safety concerns for bikers and pedestrians.
 - Tisbury DPW resources may not be available to maintain the bike path.
 - It is uncertain that state funding could be obtained to improve or maintain this path as bike path given the current condition.
- The Committee agreed that we should meet with a representative from WT to discuss alternatives. Nancy offered to lead a walk along Old Holmes Hole Road for them prior to meeting.
- Nancy suggested that there are alternative bike routes from the area of the WT school to downtown Tisbury, including riding paved State Forest paths to existing bike paths along Barnes Road and

Edgartown Road. Also, taking Stoney Hill Road from State Road to the Edgartown Road bike path. Dan mentioned that it was a WT objective to get to the State Road Business District.

- ACTION: Cheryl will arrange for a WT representative to meet with us. Nancy will coordinate a walk along the path with interested persons from the OSR Committee and the West Tisbury Complete Streets Committee.

2. Horsely-Witten Task 2 Deliverables

- GH provided a summary of information received from HW. Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) could be divided into the following categories:
 - Constructed wetlands and water-quality swales or islands within the park
 - Bioretention swales and stormwater tree trenches along Edgartown Road
 - Subsurface infiltration system on a vacant private property off of State Road
 - Use of the Town's parking lot (old firehouse lot) for an underground stormwater chamber
 - Use the entire park for subsurface chambers, including raising the park surface.
- CW raised a concern that HW dealt only with stormwater and not park amenities and features. CD pointed out that this was just Task 2 (of 4) and that recreational opportunities would come up later (Task 3).
- NEXT STEPS: GH will coordinate with Rich Claytor (HW) to set up a meeting of interested committee members, Jay Grande, and Kirk Metell to hear HW's perspectives on their proposals and to ask questions. This will be scheduled outside of our normal meeting time. GH will ask Rich for input on inviting the Tisbury Select Board to this meeting, as well as Jamie Houle (UNH), a stormwater consultant to the Town.

3. Harbormaster Building

- CD mentioned that, from her discussions with Jay Grande, he was reluctant to take the short-term approach of simply improving the current building.
- CD suggested writing a letter recommending that the Town find funds for a needs assessment.
- The Committee agreed with the proposal to write a letter. It was also felt that the plan and rationale for moving the building included in the Owen Park Master Plan was still valid.
- ACTION: CD will draft a letter for Committee review.

4. Next Meeting Agenda

The next meeting will be Monday, February 27, 2023. Agenda suggestions were

- 1) Committee assignments to the objectives reviewed at the Jan 23 meeting, plus 2023 priorities
- 2) Further discussion of Horsley Witten Veteran's Park "Task 2" deliverables
- 3) Tennis Program update, including the outcome of discussions (CW and JB) with Heidi Rydzewski

4) Next steps for Tashmoo/Spring Pond, including a meeting (CD and HS) with Jane Varkonda

Adjourn Meeting

HS moved, CW seconded, approved 5-0. Meeting ended 5:13pm.

Next Committee meeting is February 27, 2023, 10:30am, by Zoom.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson