

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 2, 2023

Meeting called to order: 10:30am

Place: Zoom

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from the April 18 meeting was deferred to give committee members a better opportunity to review content.

1. Old Holmes Hole Bike Route

- CD noted that she had walked Old Holmes Hole Road with Dan Doyle (MVC) and others; Dan came equipped with the MVC's GPS device to make records on surface and slope conditions at specific places along the route. Also accompanying them was Andrew Lester, an individual with a home on MV who has experience in trail design. Next steps are to look at Dan's mapping output, and invite Dan/Andrew to attend an upcoming OSR Committee meeting.
- With regard to the Lagoon Pond Road-Beach Road connector, CD noted that coordination with Sam Dunn and/or Teles Landscaping would be the next step. A route through the Tisbury Marketplace/Beach Road Restaurant area may be complicated by the privacy considerations of property owners in granting the necessary easement. Both Carolyn and Henry expressed interest in being part of future discussions.

2. Tennis Update

- Town Meeting approved the shed, WiFi and door lock, but funds won't be released until July 1. At present, installation of the new shed and removal of the old one is targeted for the first week of June. Following that, electrical connections will need to be made, internet connection achieved (Comcast), and the door lock installed.
- The Committee discussed options for opening courts before the above activities, perhaps including issuing keys to those who purchase memberships. However, it was agreed not to pursue this approach. Kirk has agreed to have Ray Tattersall trained for court maintenance, a rate-limiting step in opening courts; Ray in turn may train other DPW staff. David McNamara has agreed to do the training, but will not be on island until June 11 or 12.
- JB previously described a plan to require yearly membership to be eligible for the adult tennis clinics. The Committee agreed that JB should contact David McNamara to obtain input from the anonymous West Chop donor. It was also agreed that JB/CW would reach out to last year's participants for their opinion.

- Select Board approval of fees will be needed. CD will try to get on the SB agenda. This will also be an opportunity to provide an overview of the tennis clinic program and of Lake Street tennis and pickle ball. After Select Board approval, marketing of the tennis program will be initiated with a Town email, newspaper articles, and fliers.
- Carolyn/James will contact DPW about making signs regarding routine maintenance after play as well as providing a QR code to link to CourtReserve.
- Lake Street work is planned to be complete by Memorial Day.
- CD reported that Quitsa work on the parking lot and landscaping has proceeded, but not without challenges.

3. Web Site Design

- GH provided a first draft of website content. This will include links to individual Town parks, park plans, StoryMaps and blue trails, the tennis program, and the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan along with some form of updates against the plan. A “Contact Us” link will also be provided to enable feedback to the Committee.
- GH will email the high level plan to Committee members for input. He will also include links to a few other Parks and Recreation websites to stimulate ideas. The Committee was asked to consider a design for the Parks link - map view (how to get there) or photo view (what’s there). CW suggested that a search function (e.g., to find parks with basketball courts) would be helpful.

4. Horsley-Witten Study

- GH reported that HW now plans to deliver documents from Task 3 of the study by the end of the week (May 5). It was agreed that this documentation would first be reviewed by the Committee, since recreational activities will be built in for the first time.
- HW supplied a redesign of the SCM for the vacant property off of State Road. Carolyn had raised a question of how the State Road lot fit with MassDOT plans, and that reduction of nitrogen is likely not of primary interest to them, although it is important to us. GH indicated that the SCM would largely intercept flow directed to Veteran’s Park, and not to the Beach Street area that is the subject of MassDOT work (except potentially surface flow). In an email, Jay Grande questioned the value in sending this plan to MassDOT.

5. Vineyard Wind Interpretive Sign Project

- GH attended a meeting arranged by Vineyard Wind to update status. Bow VanRiper reviewed sites for which he has created narratives: Museum, Veteran’s Park, Five Corners, Gannon & Benjamin, a spot overlooking the harbor, and a potential new addition - Lagoon Harbor Park.
- HS raised a concern that the above was not a natural walking route, particularly for people coming off the ferry
- CD will follow up with Vineyard Wind; she noted that the interpretive signs would likely be a longer term project.

6. Next Meeting - Dates and Agenda Items

- It was suggested that the Committee would meet next on Tuesday May 16 at 10:30am. CD noted that Tuesday am meetings conflicted with an MVC staff meeting. She will review advantages/disadvantages of meeting on Monday May 15 instead.
- Agenda items suggested for the next meeting were 1) HW Task 3 deliverables, 2) Tennis Program, and 3) Web design. A meeting to discuss bike routes, inviting Dan Doyle and Andrew Lester would be postponed into June.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, JB seconded, approved 5-0. Meeting ended 12:02 pm.

Next Committee meeting will be either Monday, May 15, or Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 10:30am, by Zoom.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson