

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 23, 2023

Meeting called to order: 10:34am

Place: Zoom

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

Others Attending (in part): Adam Epstein (Innovation Arts and Entertainment), John Cahill (Tisbury Select Board), Jay Grande (Town Administrator), MacAleer Schilcher

1. Veterans Park - Proposed Installation of Fiber Optic Cable

- Prior to the meeting CD shared a memorandum provided to the Town by Adam Epstein. The OSR Committee was asked to review the proposal to identify any interference with stormwater control measures proposed by Horsley Witten (HW). The cable would be laid in a trench 18-24" deep along the field edge of the Veteran's Park parking lot, then turning left at the west end of the lot toward Mud Creek.
- Gerry shared proposals for the parking lot SCM from HW. For one proposal (Alternative 1 in the May 5 Task 3 document) the SCM would be installed along the field in roughly the same location as the proposed fiber optic cable. However, this SCM proposal would also require moving the baseball diamond, and is not the preferred HW alternative. The second proposal, preferred by HW, includes a bioretention island in the middle of the parking lot, roughly where the divider is now located.
- Adam Epstein noted that the trenched fiber optic cable is a temporary feature. According to Mr. Epstein, if installed the cable could easily be removed if needed.
- Both CW and MacAleer Schilcher commented that any SCM installed should be designed so that the number of parking spaces in the lot would not be impacted.
- Mr. Grande noted that technical input regarding the installation would be provided by the Fire and Police Departments, and the Conservation Commission; he is asking the OSR Committee to comment on any impact on stormwater plans. CW moved (GH seconded) that the committee approve the cable location and installation and note that it will not compromise our ability to develop stormwater control measures that might include the Veteran's Field parking lot. The motion was approved 3-0.

2. Veterans Park - Further Discussion of Horsley Witten Task 3 Proposals

- GH showed an overview of HW Alternative 1, which eliminates basketball and volleyball courts and moves the swings and playground to the northeast corner of the park by the Post Office. He also showed an HW alternative which enlarges SCM Causeway 2 (near the current location of the playground and swings) and eliminated Causeway 3 (by the basketball court). See attached drawings. GH noted that the enlarged SCM did not differ substantially from that proposed in the May 5 Task 3 document.

- CW expressed disappointment in the recreation aspects of the HW proposals. She felt HW should be challenged to provide a better design that retained current recreation facilities.
- GH suggested that we consider moving the softball field to another part of Town, providing greater flexibility in locating the swings, playground, and court games. He asked for ideas on obtaining feedback from community users of the park.
- MacAleer Schilcher noted that the fields had been donated to the Town for recreation. He felt that the HW Alternative 1 proposal shown would not be acceptable to community members.
- CD suggested that she and GH meet offline to discuss how to move forward on the HW work. It was agreed that they would meet after July 4 with Kirk Metell to discuss.

3. Veterans Park - Field Restoration and Maintenance

- CD noted that Ian Lacy (Tom Irwin Advisors - tomirwinadvisors.com) had been asked to develop a proposal for sustainable fields at Veterans Park. She noted that this would be a multiphase project - assessing current conditions, identifying current issues, identifying a proposed future state, and assessing how to get there. Cheryl will distribute the proposal to committee members when received. Mr. Lacy and Tom Irwin Advisors are experienced in helping communities develop sustainability plans for maintenance of parks and fields.
- Adam Epstein commented that other advisors not connected with the Field Fund should have been asked for input on field restoration and maintenance through an RFP process. He emphasized his opinion that an assessment needed to consider all uses of the park, not just athletic fields. He felt that Mr. Lacy would focus solely on athletic uses. CD confirmed that other field uses would be considered in Mr. Lacy's assessment.

4. Tennis Update

- JB noted that clinics were filling up well. He had some concerns that the Church Street courts were not being maintained properly - DPW is rolling 2x/week (not frequent enough); JB and other tennis players are volunteering to roll on additional days.

3. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda Items

- The next Committee meeting will be Monday, July 10, at 10:30am.
- Agenda items agreed for the next meeting were 1) Bike Route Planning; 2) Web design; and 3) Committee organization. Veterans Park would not be on that agenda.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, CW seconded, approved 4-0. Meeting ended 11:53am.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson