

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2023

Meeting called to order: 10:34am

Place: Zoom

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

Others Attending (in part): Katie Chapman, Suzy Cosgrave

Kirk Metell was not available to provide an update at the meeting, but did send a message out via email Monday morning, which CD forwarded to the Committee members (CD to committee, July 10, 3:56pm). Cheryl's forwarded message also included preliminary observations and recommendations from Ian Lacy after his June 27 look at Veteran's Park.

1. Tennis Update

- JB noted that clinics have started and are going well. Church Street courts are in good shape. We are now waiting for the shed, electricity, and WiFi. JB will set up the court reservation system in CourtReserve and will contact Jon Snyder about switching the CourtReserve account to the Town.
- JB reported that cars are running into concrete strips that have been installed along ends of the parking lot perpendicular to Church Street. At least one individual suffered a flat tire. CD will mention this to Kirk; perhaps something can be done to make these strips more visible. Traffic is also moving both ways through the parking lot, while it was intended to be one-way.
- CW will contact Marie to pursue ordering of Church Street equipment, as well as benches and other amenities approved at Town Meeting. CD will confirm with Kirk that Marie is the right contact.
- JB mentioned that some folks have inquired whether the Town would install port-a-potties at Lake Street. The Committee agreed that this was not budgeted for 2023, and questions were raised about the advisability of installing these in a residential neighborhood.
- CD was contacted by Suzy Cosgrave who was concerned that Church Street family membership rates were out of reach for young adults. The Committee discussed the possibility of a Youth membership rate at Church Street which might enable high school tennis players to take advantage of the courts. CW moved and GH seconded the adoption of a \$40 Youth rate for persons 15 to 25 years of age. The motion passed 5-0. CD offered to pass this decision along to the DPW.

2. Pickle Ball Update

- At the June 5th meeting the OSR Committee discussed locking the pickle ball courts nights and weekends and selling keys. CD reported that the Select Board wants the courts at Lake Street to remain free.

- A suggestion was received by JB from Heidi Bryan (Union Chapel) to run a pickle ball tournament in late August to benefit the Food Pantry. CW moved that the OSR Committee approve this request, with the understanding that this tournament would not be managed by the Town. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Playground Equipment

- Katie Chapman and Suzy Cosgrave attended the meeting to express their interest in helping the Committee. Katie is interested in helping to build a playground at Lake Street. Suzy is also interested in Lake Street, as well as outreach from the Committee.
- CD thanked Katie and Suzy for their interest. She noted that plans for Lake Street had been discussed by the Committee, but there was no funding to pursue this at present. (See later discussion regarding subcommittees, which may include one for playgrounds.)

4. Update on Veteran's Park - Horsley Witten Proposal

- GH reported that he and CD had met separately to discuss next steps. They felt that there were too many recreational activities currently laid out in the park. One possible option was to move the softball diamond on the Causeway side of the Park to another location in Town. This may open the opportunity to both design constructed wetlands near Causeway and move playground equipment and court games to the area vacated by that move.
- GH will schedule a meeting to include CD, GH, Kirk, Jay, and Ben Robinson. The meeting focus will be on how potential nitrogen reduction from stormwater/groundwater at Veteran's Park feeds into Water Resources Committee plans, and what facilities currently at Veteran's Park could be moved to other parts of Town.
- CW mentioned that she felt that the basketball court was a well-used facility and should remain.

5. Website Design

- GH presented ideas for website content and requested Committee input. Suggestions were:
 - Adding links to routes from other sites, e.g., TrailsMV.
 - Adding a search function to find select park amenities
 - Incorporating the location of parks, photos, and directions to them
 - Adding walking routes to and between parks, including from Main Street
 - Adding quiet walking routes (potentially as a StoryMap)
 - Adding volunteer recruitment, perhaps through the park planning section.
- GH will reach out to potential web designers to follow up.

6. Committee Organization

- Time of meeting: It was agreed that meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 could work. CD will look into reserving space at the Town Hall annex near the Park and Ride.
- It was further agreed that we will utilize one meeting per month for administrative updates and the second meeting for workshops on specific topics.
- CD suggested that we look at forming subcommittees with 1-2 committee members plus interested volunteers from the community. The OSR Committee will assess which subcommittees to form at our

next meeting. Preliminary suggestions were Playgrounds and Bike Routes. HS mentioned that he would like to pursue planning for the area between Winds Up and the Bridge. JB also expressed interest in this.

7. Next Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, July 26, 3:30 - 5pm (location to be confirmed)

- Suggested agenda topics include bike routes, subcommittee ideas, and Blue Trails.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, CW seconded, approved 5-0. Meeting ended 12:05pm.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson