

## Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 26, 2023

**Meeting called to order:** 3:32pm

**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, Christina Colarusso (Tisbury Select Board), Suzy Cosgrave, Dan Doyle (MVC), Don Keller, Andrew Lester (WT Complete Streets Committee), Greg Politz (Chair Bike/Ped Committee), Bill Veno (MVC), Nancy Weaver (MV Land Bank)

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

- May 15 (Carolyn, James and Cheryl present): JB moved, CW seconded. Approved 3-0.
- June 5 (all present): GH moved, HS seconded. Approved 5-0.
- June 23 (Carolyn, James, Gerry, and Cheryl present): JB moved, CW seconded. Approved 4-0.
- July 10 (all present): JB moved, GH seconded. Carolyn sent an email with requested corrections; GH will incorporate these changes. Approved as amended 5-0.

#### 2. Bike Route Planning

- Dan Doyle shared the technical assessment he performed on the Old Holmes Hole Road path during a walk several weeks ago with CD, Bill Veno, Andrew Lester, and Nancy Weaver. A link to the annotated route was provided. ([Click here](#). The linked map includes property ownership, slopes, and conditions/issues found. Issues encountered include stones, roots, limited sight lines, and grade.)
- Andrew Lester, who is experienced in laying out and improving bike trails, expressed concerns about the trail surface. He suggested capping and shaping the trail with a composite aggregate material. The resulting improved trail would be suitable for class 1 "commuter" eBikes. Andrew suggested as a first step, the group needs to define the "users" of the trail.
- Concerns were expressed that the 6-foot width of the Old Holmes Hole path was less than the desired 10-foot width and wouldn't meet state standards for a shared use path. The narrow width may also cause concerns with pedestrians sharing the path with bikes.
- Greg Politz proposed that we refer to this type of path with a new name and suggested calling it a shared or multi use greenway.
- Christina Colarusso noted that State Road, particularly between the overlook and Lamberts Cove Road was increasingly unsafe for bikers.
- It was agreed that signage would be needed for the Old Holmes Hole path, indicating path conditions, speed limits, and suggested users. Signs might also indicate alternatives, such as State Road, and Stoney Hill to Edgartown Road.

- CD noted to all attendees the OSR Committee’s plan to create subcommittees with 1-2 Committee members working with interested persons from the community. A bike subcommittee could further develop plans for both the Old Holmes Hole Road path and the connection between Lagoon Pond Road and Beach Road (connection through Teles or through the Tisbury Marketplace). As evidenced by the long time interval between the walk noted above and this meeting, the full Committee has been unable to find time to progress bike routes. Andrew Lester, Dan Doyle, Greg Politz and Bill Veno all expressed interest in participating in a subcommittee. (See below.)

### 3. Updates

- Veteran’s Park Horsley Witten Project: GH summarized the outcome of a meeting with CD, GH, Kirk Metell, and Ben Robinson to discuss furthering Veteran’s Park plans submitted by Horsley Witten. If the space occupied by the softball diamond closest to Causeway could be used, the playground equipment, swings, and potentially the basketball and volleyball courts could be moved. It’s also possible that the court games could be located elsewhere in town. At the meeting Kirk agreed to meet with the leaders of the two softball leagues involved to discuss sharing one field. The outcome of that meeting is needed before next steps can be taken with Horsely Witten.
- Veteran’s Park Field Maintenance: CD reported that a proposal for field assessment (before and after the concert) and development of a maintenance/management plan for Veteran’s Park field had been received from Ian Lacy (Tom Irwin Advisors, Inc.). Kirk Metell has agreed that DPW would be working with Ian on several steps of this plan. Including pre- and post-concert field assessment, as well as pre-concert field aeration. A \$35,000 payment has been received by the Town from the concert promoter for this work.
- Owen Park Bandstand: CD reported that construction documents for the Owen Park bandstand had been received from Keith Moskow. This major milestone will enable DPW to get the project out for bids.
- Tennis Program: JB reported that overall the program is going well. The shed at Church Street has been replaced and the CourtReserve account has been transferred to the Town. It was agreed that CD will notify Kirk that JB would follow up with him directly on electricity for the shed, WiFi, and the gate lock. JB noted that the Church St. courts are in “terrible condition.” The courts are not getting watered (no electricity to the sprinkler timer?) and rolling is not frequent enough for these new courts. CD will also mention this to Kirk. Despite these challenges, clinics are going well, though they need to be monitored to restrict participation to town residents with court memberships. CD will also check with Kirk on implementation of the Youth Membership rate.

### 4. Committee Organization

- Time of meeting: Unfortunately, the meeting time agreed to at our last meeting (3:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday) overlaps with Select Board meetings. It was agreed that 3:30 to 5 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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 the first meeting of the month for administrative updates and the second meeting for workshops on specific topics.
- CD reviewed our agreement to form subcommittees with 1-2 committee members plus interested volunteers from the community. It was agreed to start with subcommittees for Playgrounds (CW, Suzy Cosgrave and Katie Chapman) and Bike Routes (CD, JB [if available], Andrew Lester, Dan Doyle and Bill Veno and Greg Politz).

- HS reiterated that he would like to research planning for the area between Winds Up and the Bridge. JB also expressed interest in this.

**5. Next Meeting Agenda - Thursday, Aug 17, 3:30 - 5pm (location to be confirmed)**

- Suggested agenda topics include subcommittee updates, a tennis update, the Veteran's Park field assessment, and Henry's research on his Beach Road causeway.

**Adjourn Meeting**

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

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson