

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2023

Meeting called to order: 9:02am

Place: Zoom

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

Others Present: Kirk Metell (DPW), Dan Martino (Martha's Vineyard Productions - in part)

1. Approval of Minutes

- August 17: CW moved, JB seconded. Approved 4-0.

2. Veteran's Park Field Conditions - Update

- Kirk Metell reported that the concert promoter had hired Teles Landscaping to bring in fill, aerate the field, and seed it, first by hand, then hydroseeding. The irrigation system has been turned on and grass is now growing in approximately 60% of the field. Hydroseeding is still proceeding.
- Kirk has contacted the concert promoter to address several remaining concerns. For example, deep tire tracks in the playground area.
- Kirk and CD met with Ian Lacy to assess field conditions. Ian felt that in the future fall soccer should be possible if the maintenance plan he has recommended is implemented. Cost to the Town is estimated at \$25-30K. Ian volunteered to contact the concert promoter to provide information on to set up concert equipment to minimize damage to the field.
- CD suggested that we close the loop with MV United and other interested persons who expressed their concerns about field conditions earlier this summer. A report can be provided and a meeting scheduled to review the recommended plan for field improvement versus the actual implementation. The Select Board should also be informed.
- The Committee discussed how to proceed with ongoing field maintenance as recommended by Ian. Kirk noted that the expense of the equipment recommended is hard to justify for the Veterans Field application alone. CD suggested that we partner with other groups on the island, while CW suggested that we look at partnering on a joint bid for turf maintenance with West Tisbury.

3. Veterans Park - Horsley Witten Project

- GH asked Kirk whether the softball leagues had been contacted about sharing one field at Veteran's Park. Kirk noted that he had not formally contacted league representatives, but felt that they knew that changes were coming.

- Kirk suggested that we move forward with Horsley Witten on stormwater management systems near Causeway Road, eliminating the softball field and potentially sacrificing the basketball and volleyball courts. He noted that there would be a basketball court at the new school and that we could find another location in town for the volleyball court. GH will respond to HW accordingly.

4. Owen Park Bandstand - Update

- Kirk reported that he was awaiting information from a firm he identified online that would provide a materials list based on the architectural drawings. Once in hand, the project could then be put out to bid. Kirk expects the request for bids to go out before the end of September. CW indicated that she had a person on island who would do this work if Kirk did not hear from the other firm.

5. Tennis Court Maintenance - Update

- Kirk noted that the materials for the lock at the Church Street courts were in hand and should be installed shortly. Wi-Fi is also in place. JB will set up the online court access during the week of Sept 18.
- Kirk recognizes that court maintenance needs improvement. Ray Tattersall will continue to perform maintenance this fall, but it was agreed that in the future someone with appropriate experience should be hired for this work. Kirk noted that he had no budget this year to hire a local part-time/seasonal person for this work, but that he could add this in 2024. CW suggested that perhaps the West Chop Club could provide a maintenance plan for the courts.
- The Town continues to have issues with managing payments through CourtReserve. JB will address with Jon Snyder. Kirk noted that, although we had planned on pausing the CourtReserve account during winter, it might be more straightforward to keep it active.
- Once the gate lock is in place and tried out, a plan to transition from key access to online access could be implemented. This transition plan needs to be developed.

6. Open Space and Recreation Committee Website - Discussion with Dan Martino

- Dan joined the meeting to discuss thoughts on the website and to answer questions. He felt that the website was a good idea, and that each park could have its own web page to communicate specific information on what the town offers. He also felt that it may be useful to include information about the history of the parks. Dan felt that getting started as soon as possible was important to enable photos with greenery and with parks in use.
- GH asked how Dan's local knowledge could benefit the project. Dan noted that he was aware of the parks operations, and uses the parks himself with his family. He also commented that, being local, he was available to get photos on short notice.
- CD asked how the website could be set up to pop up directly in searches. Dan noted that code could be embedded in all pages to achieve search engine optimization. After further discussion it was determined that a key would be to get more users to access the site, therefore bumping up its priority among search results. GH noted that it was important to make the website attractive and, JB added, simple to use, to attract users. Kirk added that if a web user Googled "Tisbury waterfront" the results should point the user to this website.
- CW asked about incorporating a map view and directions to each park. Dan suggested that the page for each park would include a map and address that could be linked to GPS directions and that there would

also be a map for a town view linked to the Home Page. He asked the Committee to identify which parks would have their own page, and any information on contact persons for specific parks. CD suggested that the committee needed a scoping session and should invite Dan to participate.

- Dan asked about the perceived need for updates to the site. CD noted that much of the information would not change, but that we should build in the capability to advertise special events such as First Fridays, tennis clinics, and pickleball.
- Dan suggested that he could build a template for a park web page and solicit committee feedback.
- After Dan signed off, the committee agreed to move forward with Dan on the website. GH moved that the committee proceed with Dan Martino for developing the website. CW seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0. GH will ask Dan to send a project plan with a breakdown on stages in site development, including how he would like to be compensated (i.e., how the proposed \$8,500 project budget would be broken down for payment). CW noted that information, such as a W9 form, would also be needed. It was agreed that Dan would work out the details with Kirk.

7. Potential Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Projects

- Prior to this meeting, CD sent out a list of potential CPC projects, noting that a preliminary proposal was needed by Sep 22:
 - A new fence, gates and pinlock at the Lake Street courts - The committee agreed that this should be submitted. This application could also include 2 low divider nets for the pickleball courts. There was agreement the online lock could control access, reduce vandalism, and enable court reservations. However, there was a question of how it would work if there continued to be no charge for pickleball. The committee agreed that a charge for pickle ball, similar to that applied in Oak Bluffs, should be considered.
 - Picnic tables for Lake Street, benches and bike racks where needed - CW noted that this could be lumped into a park amenities application. She also suggested that a roller (estimated \$15,000) for the Church Street courts could also be added here. (CD agreed, but noted that this appeared to be a maintenance item, not eligible for CPC funding.)
 - Lake Street Park – survey and plan, kids play equipment, volleyball - After discussion, the committee agreed that application focus should be on the survey and plan, as well as materials for a picnic pavilion.
 - Beach access to the Lagoon at the end of Lagoon Pond Road - The committee agreed that more detail was needed and that it was too soon to add this in 2023. GH suggested that focus should first be on stormwater management (which causes the beach erosion) and that perhaps another funding mechanisms could be identified for this which might also include improved beach access. It was also agreed that a similar application for Cronig Avenue needed to be thought through further due to a perceived low usage of this site for Lagoon access.
 - Other? Kirk noted that Tristan Israel had suggested a tree farm in the area of the former septic lagoon. CD agreed to follow up with Tristan.

8. Next Meeting Agenda - Thursday, September 21, 9:30am at Lake Street Park

- The Committee had previously agreed to meet in person on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. GH suggested that we stick with this, and meet on 9/21 if we could identify appropriate agenda topics (below). JB asked if we could meet at 9:30am instead of 3:45pm and suggested that we meet at Lake Street.
- Suggested agenda topics include 1) Lake Street plan/strategy, 2) subcommittee reports, 3) update on Veterans field maintenance, 4) CPC application status.

Additional: Kirk asked about the status of a walking path near the Tashmoo Spring Pond. CD noted that this path (through the woodland and not along the pond) was part of the project that she was working through to meet ConComm requirements.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, JB seconded, approved 4-0. Meeting ended 10:49am.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson