

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2024

Meeting called to order: 10:32am

Place: Zoom

Attendance: Committee members - James Burrows (JB), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Henry Stephenson (HS), Carolyn Wallis (CW)
Also Attending: Kirk Metell (Tisbury DPW)

1. Approval of Minutes

- January 11: JB moved, HS seconded. Approved 4-0. (Minutes were approved before CW joined the meeting.)

2. Kirk Metell Updates

- Owen Park Bandstand: Plan is to do two contracts - one for the foundation work, the second for the upper portion. Kirk hopes to have work complete in time for the summer season.
- New DPW Building/Grounds Position: This position, discussed at Committee meetings in late 2023, has been adjusted downward in level from the foreman position initially proposed. Kirk intends to utilize a job description for a former DPW position. A laborer position to work under this individual will also be sought. The new positions will take on responsibility for Court Reserve, for maintenance of the Church Street courts as well as other park projects and maintenance.
- Veteran's Park Field Maintenance: The summer concert promoter has announced that there would be no 2024 concert, and that he is looking into moving future concerts to the Cape. Financial concerns are driving this decision. The Town is looking forward to a Spring maintenance program that will enable opening the fields for use throughout 2024. CD suggested contacting the Field Fund to determine their interest in helping maintain the field in future years.
- Gate Lock - Church Street Courts: The plan is to establish the link between the lock and Court Reserve prior to opening the courts in 2024. Water will be turned on during the first or second week of May, with a plan to open the courts by Memorial Day. CW asked if this could be moved up to April, but no water would be available. Both the Church Street and Lake Street tennis courts are now locked for the winter season.

3. Review of the Horsley-Witten Task 4 (Master Plan) Deliverable

- CD shared the HW Master Plan overall plan 30% diagram from the report and suggested that we focus our discussion on the recreation facilities. GH recommended that we discuss 1) the location of the children's playground area and what would be included, 2) the location of the court games and what is included, and 3) the number and location of soccer fields. If there was time and interest, the walking path and parking area design could also be discussed.
- Playground: GH noted that, in response to a question submitted, HW rationalized the location of the playground to be close to the Causeway Rd parking lot. HW also indicated that, at present, the playground

design would include swings, a merry go-round, 2 play structures, 2 rockers, and 2 benches. Fencing would be needed around the playground area. CD asked what the ground surface would be; we can ask when we meet with HW.

- Court Games: HS questioned the location of the courts, preferring an open view when entering the park from northeast (Post Office area). JB expressed concern that we were trying to pack too much into Veteran's Park. The Committee felt that volleyball could be eliminated from the plan and moved elsewhere (e.g. Lake Street Park - would there be resistance from neighbors due to noise?). This may allow the basketball court to be moved to the southwest. CD asked for opinions on half-court versus full-court basketball. The Committee generally agreed on full-court. Other basketball options in Town may be the new Tisbury School and perhaps Lake Street Park (half-court?).
- Soccer Fields: GH noted that the HW plan currently included 4 Under-10 fields and 2 Under-14 fields. In response to a question about the number of fields in the plan, HW responded that this came from a discussion with Kirk in late October. Kirk suggested that, at most, we shoot for 2 Under-10 fields and 1 Under-14 field, but probably be willing to live with one of each. The softball field also includes a temporary orange outfield fence that would run through the soccer fields in the proposed HW design. Kirk also noted that the orientation of the fields shown (perpendicular to the orientation of the current field) was inconsistent with the current field topography, which includes a crown running north south. The Committee agreed with Kirk's proposal, including orienting the Under-14 field in a southwest-northeast direction. The smaller Under-10 field could occupy a spot in the softball outfield. CW noted that, since the male and female softball players would be down to sharing just one field, we needed to accommodate them comfortably.
- The Committee agreed that we would invite HW to discuss the recreation plan with us at our next regularly scheduled meeting (February 8, 10:30 am). GH would pass this on to HW. (*Post-meeting note*: HW has responded that they could make February 8 work.)

4. Committee Organization

- CD noted that HS will need to send a letter to Pam Bennett and Hillary Conklin indicating his plans to resign. GH expressed his opinion that, with HS leaving and JB restricted in what he can take on, the Committee needed at least two new members. CD commented that these openings would need to be advertised, and perhaps now was not the best time to pursue this. CW felt this could wait until summer. HS agreed to stay on the Committee until the Town could replace him.
- As noted at the Jan 11 Committee meeting, CD been assessing Committee function, how we're organized, and the assignment of responsibilities. She has been thinking about a new 5-year plan and will send out her thoughts to the Committee.
- It was agreed that the Committee should meet face-to-face (with a ZOOM connection to JB) to start reviewing a proposed plan, what should be included, and why.

6. Next Meeting

- The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 8 at 10:30am. Agenda topics suggested are a) discussion with Horsley-Witten, b) committee organization (continued), c) 5-year planning (review CD's thoughts).

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, JB seconded, approved 5-0. Meeting ended 11:54am.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson