

# Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 8, 2024

**Meeting called to order:** 10:30am

**Place:** Zoom

**Attendance:** Committee members - James Burrows (JB), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Henry Stephenson (HS), Carolyn Wallis (CW)  
Also Attending: Casey Chatelain (Horsley-Witten), Rich Claytor (Horsley-Witten), John Stanwood (Guest), Maura Valley (Guest)

### 1. Approval of Minutes

- January 25: HS moved, GH seconded. Approved 5-0.

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

- GH invited the HW attendees to present their draft Veteran's Park Master Plan (Received 08-Dec-2023). He suggested that we focus our discussion on 1) anything that's changed with the stormwater control measures (SCM) and 2) plans for recreation facilities.
- Rich Claytor briefly described the three SCMs built into the plan:
  - A bioretention area on the north side of the existing sidewalk near the restrooms connected via an underground pipe to a wet swale with a permanent pool on the south side of the sidewalk.
  - An extended detention constructed wetland that diverts stormwater from an existing drainage pipe off Causeway Road.
  - An extended detention constructed wetland that collects stormwater from the surface of Causeway Road.
  - The focus of these SCMs is to capture (in part) nitrogen that ultimately would flow into Mud Creek.
  - Rich noted that, at the Committee's request, HW assessed the viability of underground storage of stormwater, but concluded that this was not feasible with the conditions of the limited area available.
- Rich pointed out that their plan sought to maintain or enhance recreation. Four Under-10 soccer fields were included and two Under-14. (See discussion of soccer below.). The plan also includes an improved parking area off Causeway Rd, and a wetland restoration area which would serve as a buffer between the constructed wetlands and the existing non-managed Phragmites stand.
- Recreational Facilities:
  - Volleyball/Basketball: GH noted that, following a discussion with Kirk Metell (Tisbury DPW), the Committee agreed that volleyball could be removed from the Veteran's Park plan and moved elsewhere in Tisbury. He asked HW to look at moving the planned basketball court further to the west-northwest to enable a clearer park view for those entering from the north. CW felt that it was important to keep the Basketball court at Veterans park.
  - Soccer: GH reported the Committee's feedback from Kirk Metell that HW should strive for 1 Under-14 and 2 Under-10 fields, but be willing to accept 1 Under-10 if needed. The Committee also suggested changing the orientation of the fields to east-west rather than north-south. After discussing the current field

drainage, CD asked if there would be extensive grading required if we reorient field direction. Rich noted that cut from the construction of retention and STMs could be used for rough grading. CW mentioned that the bleachers for soccer should be shown on the plan. CW will send HW a photo of the bleachers.

- Playground: Rich noted that the plan moved the playground from the wet lower area near Causeway to higher ground. The playground would be easily accessible from the redesigned parking area. The playground area would be fenced, since it is next to the wetland feature. CD suggested that HW provide more detailed information regarding the equipment HW designed for the playground so that the Town could provide input.

- Other questions:

- CW asked about maintenance of the SCMs shown. Rich noted that maintenance requirements for constructed wetlands were probably the lowest of all SCMs. Maintenance would primarily involve removal of invasive species. (HW recommends a stem application, not spraying.) HW has also included sediment forebays that will also need to be cleaned out. HW has written guidelines for maintenance - CD requested a copy.
- CD noted that the area near the proposed basketball court frequently flooded and needed to be pumped out. Rich indicated that HW would address this.
- CD mentioned that work under a Coastal Zone Management grant had recommended a berm along the southern border of the park. Rich responded that HW questions the berm design, and feels that this may trap stormwater on the park side. Adding this feature would require significant design work.
- CD requested an image of the shade area shown in the NE corner of the park plan. Rich commented that this would be a temporary tent-like structure. He will provide an image.
- CD requested a list of the species of trees recommended. HW will provide with the plan.

- Next Steps: HW will provide a sketch of the soccer fields and basketball court for Town input before the plan is finalized. HW would support the process for permitting and provide input on funding sources.

### **3. Committee Organization**

- CD suggested that the Committee's next meeting focus on the 4 years of work to date - What we've done, what not, and why. The Committee should review the document that CD sent out prior to this meeting. GH noted that the Committee's role versus the DPW role would be a topic for discussion, including budgets and plans that involve DPW work. CD will also send out input from HS which summarize his thoughts. Before our next meeting CD will go through the Tisbury Master Plan summary to identify Open Space and Recreation pieces.
- CD asked CW to contact Richard Andre to ask about Vineyard Wind funding to the Town.

### **4. Website action items**

- GH noted that Dan Martino was seeking input on the text currently included on Parks pages. It was agreed that, to get this started, we assign one park to each committee member for review/input:

HS - Tashmoo Spring Park      GH - Veteran's Park      JB - Church Street/Tennis Courts

CD - Owen Park      CW - Lake Street Park

Reviews should include mention of activities and any special events.

### **6. Next Meeting**

- The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 22 at 10:30am. Focus would be on initiating the review of committee progress to date, and preparations for 5-year planning. Also, it was recommended that we allocate 15 minutes for a review of Island Housing Trust's plans to connect a sewer line from their proposed project on the west side of Causeway across Veteran's Park to an existing sewer line near Lagoon Pond Road. (John Stanwood to attend for this purpose.)

### **Adjourn Meeting**

CD moved, HS seconded, approved 5-0. Meeting ended 12:03pm.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson