

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 22, 2024

**Meeting called to order:** 10:32am

**Place:** Town Hall Annex

**Attendance:** Committee members - Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Henry Stephenson (HS), Carolyn Wallis (CW)

Also Attending: John Stanwood (Island Housing Trust), Maura Valley (Guest), Lynne Fraker (Guest)

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- February 8, 2024: CW moved, HS seconded. Approved 4-0.

**2. Island Housing Trust (IHT) - Cat Hollow Project**

- John Stanwood attended for IHT to briefly describe this project, and to request a letter from the Committee to the Select Board. They seek support for a sewer line connecting the project through Veteran's Memorial Park to the existing sewer serving the B1 district. The project consists of 4 new home ownership units plus an existing house currently used by VTA for worker housing.
- The alternative being considered by IHT is a denitrifying septic system. However, such a system would be more costly, both up front and for monthly inspection and testing. IHT discussions with Mike Alberice, Interim Wastewater Supervisor, indicate that connecting to the sewer is feasible. IHT has initiated discussions with the Sewer Advisory Board to further explore sewer flow capacity.
- The Committee reviewed two potential paths for the sewer - one passing next to the existing basketball and volleyball courts, then east along the side of the baseball field. The second potential path would instead run along Causeway Rd., through the existing natural wooded wetland and then along the existing bike path. The Committee expressed concerns about running the sewer line though wetlands, and encouraged IHT to consider an adjustment to the second path, instead running further north up Causeway and then east along the connecting bike path.
- CD agreed to draft a letter from the Committee to the Select Board, stating the we see no impact to Veteran's Park plans, providing that the proposed sewer line follows the alternative paved road/bike path as described above.

**3. Updates**

- Bandstand: CD reported that bid documents for bandstand construction have gone out, with responses due February 28, 2024. DPW will manage demolition of the current bandstand in house and arrange for a local

contractor to pour the foundation for the new bandstand. Bid documents are for construction of the new structure.

- Website: CD has communicated with Dan Martino and it was agreed that Committee members would collect park photos with people and activities included in park-specific folders to be placed in a Dropbox folder to be shared with Dan. Committee members should use their best judgement in including only those photos recommended for use on the website. GH also reminded Committee members of assignments for providing text descriptions of assigned parks. These write-ups can be forwarded to GH for communication to Dan. Henry has a document with photos and text for Tashmoo Spring Pond Park that will be part of a group of updated planning files from Henry that CD will distribute. CW will contact Kirk to get soccer (MV United) and softball contacts to obtain descriptions of their activities for Veteran's Park. While Dan has modified the website since the last Committee review, GH suggested that we spend time at a future Committee meeting reviewing the original website plan and agreeing on the content and organization. This should be done before we meet with Dan again.
- Blue Trails: CW has been working with Kristen Geagan (Sheriff's Meadow) to finalize which stops will be included a part of the Blue Trails: 7 sites on Tashmoo and 13 along Lagoon Pond are now included. All of these stops are on public land. Sheriff's Meadow will map the sites and take responsibility for signage. CW will check with ConCom on any needed approvals and will make plans to meet with the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Select Boards for approval of public sites in their towns.

#### **4. Committee 4-Year Progress Review and 5-Year Planning**

- The Committee focused on a document previously distributed by CD that reviews the first 4 years of implementing the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan. In that document, CD lists tasks that have been accomplished or initiated and those that have not been fully addressed. It was suggested that we start the review process by looking at the latter items and discuss why we have not progressed.
- GH noted that some items were held up by uncertainty regarding the Committee's role versus the Town's (DPW). Examples were developing park maintenance plans and budgets, and identifying nurseries for an affordable source for plants. (DPW's role?) Do we need a representative from DPW on the Committee other than Kirk to discuss projects and agree on roles and responsibilities?
- GH also noted that in other instances the OSR Plan was not specific enough to make tasks actionable. Examples were evaluating pedestrian and bike routes connecting parks and neighborhoods. (Which parks? Which neighborhoods?) This could also apply to the goal to "Identify opportunities for the purchase of waterfront properties." (Where? Which Properties?)
- There was some discussion of identifying funding alternatives to make the Committee less reliant on CPC funding.
- It was agreed that the Committee should continue these discussions at future meetings, working through accomplishments and obstacles on a goal by goal basis. Committee members were encouraged to review again CD's 4-year accomplishments document and a separate document distributed by CD that looks at Tisbury Master Plan Implementation Actions related to OSR.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

- The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 14 10:30am. We will continue to look at the documents described immediately above: committee progress to date, and Tisbury Master Plan items related to OSR. Other topics warranting committee time for future meetings were listed: Old Holmes Hole bike route, Use of Lake Street Park for residential cluster wastewater treatment, website content, and Tristan Israel's Tree farm and fees and maintenance courts.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

GH moved, CW seconded, approved 4-0. Meeting ended 12:06pm.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson