

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 1, 2020

Meeting called to order: 8:35

Place: This was a virtual meeting, in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current state of emergency. There is no in person attendance by the public, but persons may access this zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95438018787>

Meeting ID: 954 3801 8787 Passcode: 048322

Attendance: Committee –C. Doble, G Hokanson, C. Wallis, H. Stephenson

Discussion

1. Owen Park Update

- C. Doble told the committee that K. Metell had received cost estimates on the upper terrace work and the bandstand renovation. He is still waiting on an estimate for the Moskow bandstand design. C. Wallis asked if we would need a warrant article to secure funding to complete the work. C. Doble said that she thought we have enough funding for the upper terrace work and probably enough for planting in the spring. Until we get the Moskow estimate and make the decision on renovation or new construction we will not be certain on the costs for the bandstand.

2. Trails

- G. Hokanson reported on his continued work with Arc GIS mapping and shared the drawings that he had produced. He explained the different trail makings (sidewalk, bike, etc.) used and explained the various layers (open space, town parks, and town parcels) associated with the maps. He demonstrated how you could turn layers on and off and select individual trails to highlight. C. Wallis though the maps were very helpful, they clearly reviled gaps and showed potential connections between different open space sites and to neighboring towns.
- G. Hokanson discussed the different characteristics between walking and bike trails. It seemed to him that bikers chose to ride what they can and just work it out. G. Hokanson thought that depending on the biker's ability most of the trails can be used by bike riders. H Stephenson asked if we had a definition of what constitutes a bike route? G. Hokanson said that friends had described conditions such as a hard surface and trail width that contribute to bike riding. C.

Wallis suggested that we might find good standards by looking at criteria established for the Falmouth bike route or State Park routes. She mentioned that Philadelphia identified bike routes by degree of difficulty (easy, medium, and hard).

- G. Hokanson brought up the issue of private roads in town-wide bike routes. He noted that there are a lot of private roads in the town, and that they typically have less traffic, and are more scenic than many of the public streets and roads. H. Stephenson noted that many of these private roads have been used by the public and municipal services for a long time but they are not up to the required standards for town roads. In many places, signs suggest that these roads are not open to the public and he thought it would be important to clarify the issue of public use. G. Hokanson said that the Land Bank directs people to use private roads such as Weaver Lane to reach their trail heads. G. Hokanson thought that it would be important to clarify the use of these roads for public walking and bike routes with the help of town counsel.
- G. Hokanson felt that the next step would be to select 2 or 3 priority trails that we want to focus on. The group could discuss steps that need to be taken to resolve gaps, make improvements and make a plan to accomplish the work. He suggested that we could work with Sherriff's Meadow on these projects and then include the trails on the Sherriff's Meadow trails app. The committee members suggested the Lagoon Pond Route (down Weaver Lane) and a West Chop Route extending to Tashmoo and the Spring building. H Stephenson thought that the West Chop Route would be most appealing to tourists. C. Doble also mentioned the need for a bike route connecting the future Beach Road SUP and Lagoon Pond Road. It will be important to have plans in place when the Beach Road improvements are completed in 2 to 3 years. A plan for this route was prepared but easements or land purchase will be necessary to make the connection across private property. C. Wallis suggested that we identify priority routes, and develop a program of improvements and costs for each route.
- G. Hokanson brought up the route to the Sailor's Burying Ground and the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) offered by the MV Land Bank to the Town to help improve, develop, and maintain routes in this area. He thought that this was a great opportunity for the town, the committee agreed. C. Wallis asked about insurance and if the Land Bank policy would extend to protect the town. G. Hokanson said that he would ask B. Veno at the Martha's Vineyard Commission. C. Doble asked if they would help develop the trail to the park and ride as well. G. Hokanson replied in the affirmative and explained that they are waiting for the leaves to fall before determining the best route. C. Doble said that she would add the MOU to the list of items for review with Town Counsel.
- G. Hokanson reported that he had been doing some web research on the use of utility easements for public trails. He said that utility companies have allowed/promoted walking paths on their easements and that they have been very popular. He said that the primary reasons that utilities prohibit this use is due to dumping of trash and concern about ATV's. Exposure to electric radiation from walking under the wires is not a problem or concern. Eversource recently constructed fences that block access onto their easement in Tisbury. G. Hokanson suggested that it would be worth following up with Eversource and the Town to explore the possibility of a walking path along the easement. C. Wallis mentioned that Sherriff's Meadow was also interested in a walking path in the Eversource easement.

3. Town Council

- C. Doble said that she would talk with J. Grande to see about scheduling a meeting with town council to discuss public use of private roads and the Land Bank MOU.

5. Agenda items for the December 1 meeting

- Owen Park further update
- Trails update and questions for town counsel
- Review of the park assessments
- Public outreach

C. Wallis move to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 and G. Hokanson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Submitted by C. Doble