

# Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

## Meeting Summary

**Date:** May 5, 2020

**Time:** 8:30

**Place:** This was a virtual meeting, in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current state of emergency.

**Attendance:** Doble, Hokanson, Metell, Stephenson, Wallis, Welch

### Discussion

#### Report from Kirk Metell

- Current status and ongoing work  
At the present time the parks are closed to sports and concerts. DPW will use this time to work on the Veteran's Park grounds. The fields have been heavily used and have not bounce back well. This moratorium will give time to restore the playing fields with the addition of topsoil and reseeding. It may be possible to consider more passive recreation in the park this summer through the placement of picnic tables and benches.
- The Town is working on hiring summer staff.
- We now have signed contracts with local firms for landscape work and masonry. We will be able to employ these firms on various town park projects.
- Due to low use of the Center Street tennis courts and the high cost of maintenance, DPW will not be going forward with previously planned improvements. The Selectmen are planning to discuss possible repurposing of this park. They would like to discuss the redevelopment of this site as a neighborhood pocket park and parking area. The committee would like to be part of this exploration. They would be willing to conduct a community survey and develop design alternatives. They would also be willing to identify locations where new courts could be developed to replace the loss of this activity on Center Street.

#### Updates from committee members

1. G. Hokanson reported that he had walked the Lake Street Park Trail since Kirk and the DPW had cleared the path and he reported that they had done a very good job. He

suggested that we might look into the possibility of adding seating along the path. We discussed walking the path when the leaves are out to see what might be possible.

G. Hokanson reviewed the following maps that he had received from C. Seidel at the Commission and shared revisions to the maps that would be helpful.

- Open space and recreation areas – This map contains the inventory of all the Town open space and recreation areas. There are additional properties that should be added to that map and inventory.
- Map of trails – He would like to ask Chris to use a stronger line weight hierarchy to better distinguish between roads and trails. He further noted that he has been walking many of the designated trails. These could be used to create cross town and cross island trail systems but that there are gaps that will need to be addressed.
- Population Density – The population density maps show a ½ mile walking radius from various open spaces and parks. G. Hokanson wondered if a ¼ mile would be a better distance. He also felt that the shading of the areas was hard to read. The committee discussed requesting that Chris delineate the ¼ mile circles from playgrounds, parks and trail heads using outlines rather than shading.

G. Hokanson noted that the narrow width of the trails on conservation lands did not easily accommodate social distancing. He thought that some of our quiet roads offered a better opportunity to maintain social distance. He mentioned Herring Creek Rd and the powerline easements are well suited to maintaining social distance.

C. Doble asked about the possibility of requesting a wider opening between the gate and fence along the Eversource powerline easement to allow bikes. Kirk Reported that Eversource doesn't even want pedestrians walking along the easement due to radiation from the wires.

2. D. Welch met with C. Seidel about the using a drone to take aerial photos of Town parks. C. Seidel, asked about the purpose of the drone photos and wondered if the Mass GIS photography would work just as well. David felt that the quality of the imagery from the drone was much higher than the GIS. H. Stephenson asked if other survey work could be integrated/layered with the Drone photos. D. Welch replied that they could if they were Geo referenced. The committee decided to request drone photography of Owen Park and the Tennis Courts since there will be ongoing planning at both sites. It will be important to do this before the trees leaf out much more. David will contact Chris and if it is a go, he will let Kirk know. Kirk will let the selectmen know and close the two parks for the time of the drone flight.

D. Welch brought up the need to have a repository for the maps and materials that the committee is producing. C. Doble will follow up with Heidi Rydzewski to see what can be done on the Town website.

3. Carolyn Wallis has been talking with Sherriff's Meadow about their plans to establish trail connections across the island. There are volunteers working in each of the towns to help in this process. From the Town perspective she felt that it would be useful to look at the opportunities and set priorities. She feels that it would be very doable to work on one or two projects. Like Gerry, she mentioned that there are gaps where connections would need to be made and suggested field trips to familiarize the committee with the different trails and to explore the potential to connect the gaps. As we work on town connections it will be important to understand how the paths through town connect to the larger island wide network of trails.
4. H. Stephenson brought up the fact that the Town Memorial Day Picnic has been cancelled and he wondered if it would be possible to set out the picnic tables to facilitate social distancing at the park so that people could picnic on their own. Kirk reminded the group that all the parks are closed right now. Placement of benches and picnic tables will be something to think about when the parks reopen. H. Stephenson will be gathering surveys and planning studies that have been completed for the Town Parks.
5. C. Doble reported that the ADA survey of all the Town Parks has been completed. G. Hokanson and C. Wallis volunteered to help update the Open Space and Recreation map and inventory for resubmittal to the State.

#### Next Meeting Agenda

May 8, 2020 at 8:30

Update from K. Metell

- Summer park activity given COVID-19
- CPA projects

Center Street Tennis Courts

Update on Mapping

- D. Welch on aerial photography
- G. Hokanson revisions to maps by MVC

Other committee updates

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM

Submitted by Cheryl Doble