

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 16, 2020

Time: 8:36

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/94848475917>

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Attendance: Doble, Hokanson, Stephenson, Wallis - Conservation Commission: John Bacheller, C. Whitaker

Meeting called to order: 8:36 am

Discussion

Report from Kirk Metell.

Due to unforeseen emergency, Kirk was not able to attend.

Center/Church Street Tennis Courts

1. Court Costs

C. Wallis reported on her meeting with P. Pertile the Tennis pro from Edgartown and owner of MV Tennis, a company that helps maintain courts around the island. He said that it would cost \$7,500 to refurbish the clay courts and \$7,500 annually to maintain them. They would need irrigation and regular rolling. Kirk reported that the irrigation is in working order. If the town is to maintain the courts, we would need to purchase a steam roller, which could likely be purchased on eBay for \$5,000. P Pertile suggested that we advertise for a college tennis player to maintain the courts and in exchange for their work on the courts, the town offers him/her the

use of one of the two courts for private lessons. He feels that they could make a good income teaching lessons and the Town would not incur a cost for maintaining the courts. While P. Pertile likes the new softer cushion courts, he feels that they are vulnerable to vandalism and that it is difficult to protect these courts on public properties. C. Wallis also took him to look at the Lake Street Courts. He felt that these were in good shape but noted that they did not receive a final finish coat. He pointed out stress cracks but felt that the cracking could be addressed by creating expansion joints along the crack line that runs between the two courts. He also noted that it would be possible to turn one of the courts into three pickleball courts.

K. Mettel said that they pay \$8,000 to Cape and Island Tennis every year to refurbish the clay courts and \$10,000 to sweep and roll the courts over the summer. It is hard to figure out how we would hire a part time worker at \$15 an hour to do that work. A new asphalt court would cost \$60,000 to install and in comparison to the costs for the clay courts would be paid off in three years.

2. Costs and Revenues

There was a general group discussion of ways that we might raise money to support the cost of the courts. J. Bacheller shared research he had done on card access. He felt this would be a more flexible approach than our current practice of selling keys. C. Wallis reported that other communities, with centralized recreation areas have attendants and are able to charge and collect fees for using their court. K. Metell commented that without a recreation department we are not able to offer clinics and other programming that could help to raise fees for our facilities. An earlier suggestion of a Friends Group to help support tennis facilities was also mentioned.

3. Public interest

J. Bacheller wondered how many people play tennis and wondered how many courts we need. If the Church Street court were in good shape, how many keys could they sell? K. Metell thought that the Church Street Courts seemed private. J. Bacheller thought that if the courts were in good condition that they would be an asset to the community and that the local Inns might promote them to their visitors. C. Whitaker felt that the low use of the courts was due to their disrepair. C. Doble note the value of a survey to better understand public interest.

4. Exploring other potentials

G. Hokanson noted that most of our discussion had focused on tennis and without much consideration about other recreational activities that could occur on the site and benefit the neighborhood. He suggested that we layout all the options. C. Wallis and H. Stephenson both suggested that we look at the activities occurring on other town parks to better understand existing recreation facilities, how they are being used, the potential to add activities and understand the best places to accommodate various activities. C. Doble suggested that the committee visit the various parks to better understand the existing conditions, current activities and potential for adjustments and new activities.

5. Parking

C. Doble shared a diagram to illustrate how the parking lot could be minimally reconfigured to accommodate additional parking. G. Hokanson asked who we are providing parking for. K. Metell liked the idea as it added a few more spots but mentioned that parking availability at this site is also a policing issue. C. Whitaker said that parking writ large should be tackled in a broad way and consider parking needs and availability beyond the tennis courts.

6. Other discussion

K. Metell, K. Metell, suggested that the committee think about courts that can provide three season use. He reported that basketball court at Veterans Park is lined for pickleball play and that there is a net at Sports Haven that can be picked up by anyone who wants to play pickle ball. The committee felt that the public is likely unaware of this opportunity.

7. Additional information needed

C. Whitaker asked if we have dimensions and topography for the site, C. Wallis noted that we could get site dimensions from the Drone aerial. We do not have a survey of the topography.

8. Assignments

- C. Wallis, C. Whitaker and J. Bacheller will continue to research court materials, construction, and costs.
- C. Doble will work with D. Welch to start developing a survey to better understand community use of town parks and desired recreational resources.

Updates on mapping and trails

1. G. Hokanson and C. Wallis have done some initial walking and mapping of Barre Hill, and the land near Jabberwocky. C. Wallis feels that the trails are walkable, can be mapped and that some could be shared with the public. G. Hokanson said that he could use some guidance on how best to map the trails. He would like to be able to provide trail maps with distances to guide walkers. C. Whitaker reported that he had seen some good trail maps produced by Falmouth and, if we could locate them, that they might provide a good example. C. Wallis suggested that they schedule walks along the identified routes so that others on the committee better understand the opportunities and consider ways that gaps might be addressed.
2. Gerry is going to follow up with C. Seidel on map requests, but he noted that she is very busy.

Other discussion

1. C. Doble would like to schedule site visits to the town parks so that committee members can familiarize themselves with current conditions and future opportunities.
2. D. Welch said that he would set up a new google account for the committee to use.

Next Meeting Agenda

July 7, 2020 at 8:30

Update from K. Metell

Center Street Tennis Courts and update to the Select Board

Report on the trail walks, mapping, and discussion of next steps

The committee unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2020

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM

Submitted by Cheryl Doble