

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 8:30

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.

Topic: Open Space and Recreation Committee
Time: Jun 2, 2020 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91976927787>

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Password: 853791
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Attendance: Doble, Hokanson, Stephenson, Wallis, Welch Conservation Commission: John Bachelor, C. Whitaker

Public participating: Louis Pashman, James Burrow

Meeting called to order: 8:35

Discussion

Report from Kirk Metell.

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

Center/Church Street Tennis Courts

1. Feedback from tennis community

C. Wallis shared her meeting with the tennis community. They reported that the Church Street courts were an island resource not just a Tisbury resource. The courts have been neglected and not well maintained and, as a result, they are a last resort court and courts that are used by families. There is a \$50.00 charge to get a key to the court. In their current condition, this is not worth it, it is too much for most families and the process to obtain key is cumbersome and not possible on the weekend. The current court layout does not fully meet regulations. The courts are adequate but the spacing between them is not wide enough and the back and side lines are

too close to the fence. The tennis group welcomes the use of parking in the area where it is located on the site. They felt that it could accommodate more cars.

They recommended the following

- Keep the clay courts or provide new courts with a softish surface
- If not here, create clay courts at another location
- Charge a fee and possibly use a phone app or a drop box for non-residents or onetime users to gain access and use of the courts.

They suggested that a Friends Group might help care for the courts.

2. Deed research

D. Welch found a copy of the deed and it does not contain any restrictions as to a specific recreation use.

3. Court conditions

G. Hokanson noted that when he visited the site the gate was open and that the fence was in disrepair. H. Stephenson remarked that it may not be possible to enlarge the courts on this site and that it may be more desirable to locate them at a different site. J. Barrow confirmed that the width is the issue. L. Pashman did not think that the location was critical but that it was more important to consider what would make the most sense financially, to create courts in a new location or improve the existing courts. C. Whitaker said that regulation court dimensions are 120 x 50 ft. C. Doble recommended getting accurate site dimensions. C Whitaker would like to understand the cost for maintaining town courts and understand the difference between costs of maintaining the hard surface courts at Lake Street and the clay courts at Church Street.

4. Research on materials

J. Bachelor has been researching different surface treatments. C. Whitaker reported on the new materials which appear to have several benefits and will cost less to maintain. C. Wallis reached out to the Tennis Pro at the Edgartown Yacht Club and will arrange to meet with him to evaluate rehab of the clay court and to understand the costs and benefits of both the clay and new surface options.

5. Costs and Revenues

J. Bachelor wants to reconsider the way that we collect fees for use of the Church Street courts. The Town currently charges \$50.00 for a key to the courts. The key must be picked up at the DPW, which is not open on the weekends. The process is cumbersome and expensive for one-time users. He suggested that we look into using a credit card swipe at the site or a phone app that would much less cumbersome.

6. Community input

C. Doble recognized the importance of community input and the challenges right now given the fact that we cannot bring people together for a public meeting. She noted the importance of hearing from both the neighborhood and from the larger community. She thought that we might need two surveys recognizing that the questions we have for the neighbors could be different than those that we would ask of the larger community. G. Hokanson suggested that we hear from people living within a ¼ mile of the courts to understand what they would like to see and then expand the survey to the larger community. C Whitaker noted that the tennis courts in this location are a great addition to the neighborhood. He expressed the importance of a good planning process as we work to make our recommendation. He suggested that we find out the costs for various options before we conduct the survey. H. Stephenson noted that there may be

new territories in town where courts could be located and suggested the area behind the EMS building as one possibility.

7. Assignments

- C. Whitaker and J. Bachelor will continue to research court materials, construction, and costs.
- C. Wallis will follow up with the tennis pro from Edgartown.
- C. Doble will inquire about the requirements for a committee site visit and schedule one if possible.
- C. Doble will begin to draft a survey for committee discussion.

Updates on mapping and trails

1. D. Welch reported that the drone photography was available and suggested that the committee members play around with the program to become familiar with the software.
2. G. Hokanson has been looking at ways that people can get to places in town using existing trails. He shared maps with committee members prior to the meeting. These maps covered trails from Edgartown Rd to Barre Hill and connecting points, the New Water Works area, and the woodland area near Camp Jabberwocky. He is interested in understanding the feasibility of creating a more connected network and the most desirable routes. C. Doble suggested scheduling walks along these routes so the committee would have a better understanding of them.

Other discussion

1. C. Doble contacted H. Rydzewski to set up a Town Web page for the committee and to discuss the possibility of setting up a repository for the maps and materials that the committee is producing. Heidi is working on the web page and suggested the possibility of using Microsoft teams or one drive for a repository. However, if we used either of those programs, the town would need to pay a monthly subscription for each of the committee members.
2. D. Welch said that he would set up a new google account for the committee to use.

Next Meeting Agenda

June 16, 2020 at 8:30

Update from K. Metell

- Current park activities
- Upcoming projects
- Planning for CPA projects

Center Street Tennis Courts

- Update on committee tasks regarding the tennis courts
- Considering alternatives
- Planning for public input

The committee unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2020

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 AM

Submitted by Cheryl Doble