

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2020

Time:

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/92858363059>

Meeting ID: 928 5836 3059

Attendance: C. Doble, G. Hokanson, H. Stephenson, C. Wallis, D. Welch - Conservation Commission:

Historic Commission: John Bacheller, C. Whitaker

Meeting called to order: 8:33 am

Discussion

Trail mapping

1. G. Hokanson reported on his exploration of two potential walking trails from Edgartown/Vineyard Haven Road to High Point Lane and from there on to Upper State Road. The first route begins on the Land Bank's Bare Hill Trail, which starts near Winyah Lane, travels over to meet Mud Puddle Lane. He noted that The Island Food Products cleared a landbank easement running across their property for vehicular parking and storage. Unfortunately, the clearing detracts from the natural character of the rest of the trail. The second route is from Edgartown/Vineyard Haven Road along Mud Puddle road. The Bare Hill trail meets Mud Puddle Road near the town leach field. From this location there are two possible routes to reach High Point Lane. The first would be to walk to the DPW facilities and then up the Road to the Annex buildings and Park and Ride. The second is to create a path over town land across the end of the Leach field and from there up a slope to the Park and Ride. The first option seems less desirable because you would need to walk in the road. The second trail, if created, would be more direct and avoid vehicular traffic. Construction of a sidewalk on High Point lane would extend this pedestrian route to Upper State Road. See PDF DPW to Sailors Burying Ground -- map 1. Route illustrates the route, map 2. the Landfill topo and, map 3 decision points.

If you turn left at the junction of the Bare Hill trail and Mud Puddle Road by turning you can walk on to the Sailors Burying Ground. The trails in this area have no trail markers and it is confusing. Gerry discussed the value of signs in this area to help pedestrians navigate. D Welch suggested

painting blazes. G. Hokanson thought that they would help but that at key decision points, you really need signs. Gerry spoke with both the Land Bank and MVC about the trails extending from Mud Puddle Road. B. Veno (MVC) said that no one owns or manages trails in this area. The Landbank would like to work with the town to help manage these trails. J. Bacheller noted that the Sailor's Burial Grounds are a Land Bank property and that there should be access to this area. B. Veno is working on a new trail through this area as part of an all island trail system that will avoid conflict with private properties (see PDF map 4). There was no indication when that route might be developed. C. Doble had a question about public use of private roads for a public walking route. J. Bacheller wondered if any of these were ancient ways.

G. Hokanson also reviewed a second potential trail from the Tashmoo Spring building area to West Spring street (see PDF map 5). Most of this trail would be across town owned land and it would establish a pedestrian link between the Tashmoo area, one of the town's larger open space and park sites, and residential neighborhoods and the school. C. Wallis asked if there could be a connection from this trail to High Point Lane. H. Stephenson thought that a connection might be made to Colonial Drive and then up to Cronigs.

Center/Church Street Tennis Courts

1. Update

C. Wallis reported that she, J. Bacheller and C. Whitaker had been researching various court options including – clay, hard surface and new soft surface materials. It was her impression that the current clay courts had probably not been receiving adequate maintenance. She noted that there seems to be room to widen the court to meet spacing requirements along the side. Doing this would require enlarging the fence. She would like to document costs for all options before making a recommendation. The documentation would include installation, maintenance, and life cycle costs.

2. Costs and funding

Everyone recognized the importance of being able to cover the costs. Most towns charge for use of their tennis courts. C. Wallis reported on possible funding through USTA. S. Moore has offered to help with grants that are available to fund, fencing, wind screens and maintenance. She felt given the history of this public court in our historic district would generate interest from the USFTA. C. Whitaker discussed the potential to market the courts to the Mansion House and Bed and Breakfasts in town and to create a friend's group that could help to support and maintain the courts. J. Bacheller and C. Whitaker reported on different security options, fee schedules and projected revenues. These strategies need further refinement.

3. The neighborhood

C. Whitaker felt that we should do something on this site that the Tisbury could be proud of. He also felt that it was important to improve the landscape around the parking lot when it is reconfigured. J. Bacheller felt that the clay court was the most appropriate in the historic district. His second choice would be the soft court.

4. Next steps

C. Wallis suggested forming a small four-person group to complete final cost estimates for the different alternatives and to refine a funding strategy. C. Whitaker announced that he was going to write a report to the Historic Commission, which he would forward to the Select Board. C. Doble reported that she was drafting an update report to the Select Board that she would send a draft out to the committee for review and comments before sending it to J. Grande to forward to the Select Board. She felt that we need to speak with one voice and that any communication should be reviewed by the full committee before going to others in town.

Other discussion

1. C. Doble will schedule site visits to the town Parks during the last week in July. This will give the committee members a chance to familiarize themselves with current conditions and consider future opportunities.
2. C. Doble and D. Welch are going to begin work on a survey and hope to have a draft for discussion at the next meeting.
3. D. Welch said that he would send out a link to the new google account for the committee to use to store/archive materials.
4. C. Doble will contact H, Rydzewski again to request a page for the committee on the Town Website.

Next Meeting Agenda

August 4, 2020 at 8:30

Report from Center Street Tennis Courts Committee

Update from K. Metell

Discussion and next steps on trails

Comments on the survey

Report on Park visits

The committee unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM

Submitted by Cheryl Doble