

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 1, 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98490233379>

Meeting ID: 984 9023 3379

Attendance: K. Metell, C. Doble, G. Hokanson, C. Wallis, D. Welch

Historic Commission: J. Bacheller

Meeting called to order: 8:34 am

Minutes: The committee unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2020

Discussion

1. Survey

D. Welch explained that L. Morrison at the MVC had put up the survey. She is taking time off but when she returns to the office she will make edits to the survey. C. Doble noted that G. Hokanson had submitted some changes and raised the question of what we hoped to learn from the survey. C. Doble noted what she wanted to understand, and others added to create the following list–

- Who uses the park,
- Improvements the community would like to see,
- What could be done to increase use
- Where to invest in improvements
- How well neighborhoods are supported and if they are not served well, how we might be able to respond.

C. Wallis noted that recreation habits change over time and that it would be important to understand what is missing and what don't we offer that people would like. G. Hokanson asked if it mattered where different activities take place. C Wallis thought that it would be important to understand the opportunities and differences between major facilities versus neighborhood parks.

D. Welch went through the survey questions taking edits. The following questions were discussed.

Question 4 - C. Doble wondered if we should include the streets that ended at the water since she was not certain that the town currently maintains them. The group felt that they were important to include.

The following changes were made - replace "Groove" Ave. with "Grove" Ave. Beach (Question 4, 11), "Owen Little Beach" with "Owen Little Way Beach" and add "Lagoon Pond" street ending.

Two changes were made - the addition of The Lagoon Pond Rd. street end and the renaming of the Beach Rd Lagoon Pond landing.

Question 7 –allow multiple answers

Question 9 – add improved maintenance

Question 11 – This question asks what activities people would like to see. We would like to have a drop-down field to ask where they would suggest adding activities. If this can't be added, we would like to add an open-ended question at the end (new question 12) to ask this.

C. Doble asked about adding a question about different ways to fund the parks. The group decided against that question. D Welch asked about adding a question asking participants to leave contact information if they would be interested in volunteering to support the town parks. Even though everyone liked the idea, the group decided not to include the question since we don't have any clear way to involve volunteers at this time.

C. Doble asked about outreach to market the survey and the group developed the following list-

- The Town Website and associated E-Alerts
- Send out notices to website lists
 - Vision Forum email list
 - Vineyard Haven Library
 - Tisbury School
 - Rec groups with emails at DPW
- Recreation groups, Vineyard Haven Yacht Club, West Chop Club, Mink Meadows Golf Club
- An article in the newspapers
- MV Times Minute

The group decided that 3 weeks would be a reasonable time to leave the survey up, but they will also monitor the survey to see if responses are still coming in.

2. Center/Church Street Tennis Courts

The committee members had reviewed the report and spreadsheet sent from the smaller Tennis Committee. C. Wallis began her summary of the report by thanking, C. Whitaker, J. Bacheller, Louis Pashman and J. Burrows for their help with the research. She also mentioned that the committee felt that whatever we do on this site should be first rate and an asset to the town.

C. Wallis went through the alternatives that they considered including –

- use of the site for a parking lot,
- continuation of tennis on the site and
- development of alternate recreation or park use on the site.

She reported that the committee did not feel that development of the site for parking was a good or appropriate use of this site in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The report also noted drawbacks associated with other recreational uses on this property. The report detailed the

potential to develop new tennis courts at the site and provided information on desired improvements, surface types, and costs (installation, yearly maintenance, and lifecycle costs). The report covered the pros and cons of Har-Tru Clay Courts, Post-Tension Concrete hard courts and Cushion Surface hard courts. All of this is detailed in the report currently on the Committee's Google site. C. Wallis reported that during her meetings with court contractors they also looked at the courts at Lake Street Park to better understand their condition. These courts are in good condition, but they were never given a finish coat, which should be done. There are also cracks that should be repaired. It would be possible to turn one of these tennis courts into 3 pickleball courts.

K. Metell had spoken with the Town Administrator and Select Persons and reported that they did not want to see more than two options. D. Welch thanked C. Wallis for the good work of her committee and asked if they had considered just one court on the site. She said that it would not make sense to have one clay court because the maintenance would be almost the same cost for one court as it would be for two. Furthermore, the Tennis players did not think that one court would get much play. G. Hokanson also complemented the group and said he wondered how much it is worth to the town have special tennis courts in this location. Can we in all honesty say this is money well spent?

C. Wallis said that there are funding sources such as the United States Tennis Association that could be used to help to cover some construction costs. They fund both clay and hard surface courts. She did think that the story of the continuation of clay courts in the historic district would be compelling to funding group like the USTA.

G. Hokanson asked about other recreational uses. C. Doble reviewed the rational for tennis versus new recreation uses. She mentioned noise given the proximity of residential homes, the improvements to the play and recreation facilities at the school, which is close by, and the potential challenge of monitoring undesirable evening activities in a seating or gathering area.

C. Doble also asked about the Net Costs. C. Wallis explained that it included the cost for installation, annual maintenance and scheduled repairs over 15 years. G Hokanson asked about fees and funding options. C. Wallis explained that some on her committee felt that should be left out of the report. K. Metell said that the Select Board will want that figured out. He felt that there was an advantage of having the courts at an in-town location. The group discussed the fees and possible revenue that might be collected for the different types of courts. C. Wallis reviewed the fees charged by other towns and said that the committee's projected income was based on the fees the other towns are charging. She noted that public clay courts would be unique and that we would likely be able to be able to charge more for their use. K. Metell reported that R. Tattersall implemented the current fee structure for court keys to help cover maintenance costs but that the courts were in such poor condition that he did not raise much. K. Metell felt that with courts in better condition we could market them and secure fees to help offset the maintenance costs.

Both C. Wallis and J. Bacheller felt that it would be desirable if both the Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Historic Commission could support the same recommendation.

C. Doble suggested that if anyone had edits to the report that they send them to C. Wallis.

G. Hokanson moved that the committee make a recommendation to the Select Board that the current courts be replaced with either the Har-Tru Clay Court or the Post-Tension Court and that C. Doble write a letter to the Town Administrator and the Select Board presenting our recommendations to be sent along with the full report and spread sheet prepared by C. Wallis and her committee. C. Wallis seconded the motion.

C. Doble will send the letter out to the Committee for their review and approval and then on to K. Metell and the Historical Commission.

Next Meeting Agenda

September 16, 2020 at 8:30

Update on the survey draft and finalize

Discuss potential CPC projects

Update on the Park site visits

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM

Submitted by Cheryl Doble