

# Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**Meeting called to order:** 8:35

**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/92262320135> Meeting ID: 922 6232 0135  
Passcode: 550250

**Attendance:** Committee –C. Doble, G Hokanson, C. Wallis,  
Staff – Kirk Metell

**Minutes** September 1 and September 15, 2020 minutes were approved

### Discussion

#### 1. Owen Park Update

- K. Metell reported that he sent out a request for cost estimates on the Upper Terrace and the Bandstand (renovations and K. Moskow design). The estimate for the renovation is under \$50,000. This will include, taking off the roof and replacing it with pressure treated plywood and shingles, removing the existing railing and adding new ADA compliant railings, painting and bringing the building up to code. K. Metell said they looked at the base and posts but felt that they were OK. C. Doble asked about creating an ADA ramp into the bandstand and K. Metell said that was not included but could be done.
- C. Wallis noted that the steps proposed in the Moskow design were attractive and interesting to many people. She wondered if they could be added if the structure was renovated. K. Metell replied in the positive.
- C. Doble wondered if the renovation might be able alter the gable end of the current bandstand that gives the structure a very heavy appearance and blocks views to the harbor.

#### 2. CPA update

- C. Doble mentioned the most recent cost estimate received for the pickleball courts at Lake Street was higher than the CPC request. She wondered if we should change the original application request from \$50,000 to meet the new proposal at \$80,000. C. Wallis explained that the increase was likely due to the need to bond and to meet town procurement requirements. She suggested that Cape and Island Tennis might be able to complete both the Church Street and Lake Street projects. K. Metell thought that he could cover some costs using his DPW

budget and that we could also put in a warrant article to cover the additional costs. C. Wallis felt that the courts are projects that need to happen and be done well. K. Metell mentioned that the warrants are due before the CPC decision. He asked if the committee would like to submit a placeholder for the projects. C. Doble recommended putting in a placeholder. C. Wallis said that she would follow up with Sara Moore to talk about submitting a grant to the USTA.

### 3. Update Trails

- G Hokanson reminded the group that he sent an MOU from B. Veno for committee members to comment on.
- G. Hokanson reported on a recent meeting with Sheriff's Meadow (SM) staff and Tom Robinson the Tisbury representative working with SM on their all island trails project. He noted that SM's interests are similar to ours and that they are especially interested in a trail from the Spring Pond (Tashmoo Park) to West Chop Woods. G. Hokanson asked if Tisbury might be able to utilize the Trails MV app. SM agreed to look into this and possibly start with a few trails. C. Wallis thought that it might be possible to have a Tisbury map under outings on the Trails MV app. G. Hokanson said that Edgartown is also interested in this.
- G. Hokanson said that C. Seidel at the MVC is extremely busy right now but that she provided instructions for him on how to use the GIS. He will need some time to work on it.
- C. Doble mentioned the potential challenge of designating private roads for walking and bike routes. We do not have any documentation on how or if these roads can be used by the public. We will need research to better understand public use of these roads. K. Metell mentioned that the Select Board recently received requests from road associations asking the town to take over several private roads.
- C. Doble asked how the committee thought that we should move forward with the trail planning. G. Hokanson thought that it would be a good idea to study H. Stephenson's trail map that proposes a loop from the Ferry Terminal to Veteran's Park that then circles through the town with extending trails.
- G. Hokanson reported that he was scheduling a walk with SM staff across the Water Department property to see if they could identify a feasible route through the property. Kristin is going to look at contour maps to see if she can map a reasonable route. Once she has identified a possible route, they will schedule a follow up walk. She has a device that will allow them to track their route as they walk.
- G. Hokanson said he thought it would be helpful to develop goals and a way forward with our planning. He also mentioned that routes for walking and biking will likely have quite different requirements. Many of the routes we have been exploring are more suitable for walking than bikes. In the future it may be possible to adapt some of these routes for biking.

### 4. Review the year one actions in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

#### Goal 1. Improve stewardship of open space, parks and recreation

- The group recognized that there were several actions related to maintenance, budgeting and outreach that we have not addressed.
- C. Wallis asked if K. Metell if he has a maintenance plan and budget that we could review. She thought that it would be helpful to start with an understanding of his budget and what is being

done at each park. K. Metell replied in the affirmative and said that he would be glad to share that with the committee. He also noted that he has been asked to avoid any increase in last year's budget when he develops his next budget. C. Wallis asked if we currently receive any income from park use. K. Metell replied that we do receive payment for park use at Owen Park, Veteran's Park, Lake Street Park and Tashmoo.

- G. Hokanson thought that our site visits will help us evaluate maintenance needs and set priorities.
- C. Wallis suggested the following --
  - Identify maintenance needs park by park
  - Review the maintenance plan from K. Metell
  - Prioritize needs
  - identify new opportunities
  - Develop budget and identify a strategy to fund the plan
- Kirk reminded the group that park use might change over time and cited the example of Veteran's Park possibly accommodating some of Tisbury School's relocation during future construction.
- The committee decide that we should review our park visit summaries and survey comments on each park to better understand maintenance needs.
- While recognizing the potential value of volunteers to help with park improvements, the group did not feel that we were ready to take this on yet.
- C. Wallis discussed the value of community outreach and C. Doble reported receiving an email from P. Street with several ideas about outreach techniques that we might consider. She suggested inviting P. Street to a future meeting. C. Wallis also mentioned the value of starting to reach out to local and state funders.

Goal 2. Improve existing recreation facilities and create facilities to meet identified needs.

- G. Hokanson felt that in addition to understanding maintenance needs, the review of our park visits, and the survey findings would also help us understand new opportunities for capital improvements, which could be explored through a master planning process for each park. He felt that Goal 2 would advance through completion of Goal 1. actions.

Goal 3. Create a network of pedestrian, bike, and water routes that connect town parks and open space and integrate them within our neighborhoods.

- G. Hokanson noted that we have not identified the gaps in our pedestrian and bike network. At this point we don't know where we would want to put money into improvements. He felt that we need to work at a larger scale. C. Wallis noted that there is funding specifically aimed at trail development. She felt that we should identify gaps, develop a budget and start looking for funding.
- G. Hokanson asked about wayfinding. C. Doble explained that the need/desire for a wayfinding plan and system came from the Cultural District. A preliminary study was completed, and the town received embarkation funding this year to develop it further. C. Doble will send the committee documentation of the work that has been completed.
- The group agreed that we should start with Henry's map to advance actions under this goal.

5. Agenda items for the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Updates Trails and CPC projects
- Review Town Parks – summary of site visit inventory and survey responses

C. Wallis move to adjourn the meeting at 10:13, G. Hokanson seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Submitted by C. Doble