

West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting

Town of West Boylston
120 Prescott Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Joint meeting with
Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee
Town of Sterling

Agenda
Thursday, July 22nd, 2004
Selectman's Room 7:00pm
Mixer Municipal Building, West Boylston

1. Secretary Pro Tem for this meeting: Ms. Kristina Vickstrom
2. Call to Order: 7:20 pm
3. Welcome
4. Members of West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee:
 - a.) Robert Tashjian, V.M.D., Chairman (present)
 - b.) Mike Peckar, Vice Chairman (present)
 - c.) Betsy DeMallie (present)
 - d.) Tom Halpin, M.D. (absent)
 - e.) Karen Pare (absent)
 - f.) Val Pruneau (present)
 - g.) Barbara Wyatt (absent)
5. Members of Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee
 - a.) Robert Spencer, Chairman (present)
 - b.) Brian Cline, Vice Chairman (present)
 - c.) Marian Larson (absent), corrected email address: marian.larson@state.ma.us
 - d.) Maryanne MacLeod (present)
 - e.) Sue Valentine (absent)
 - f.) Bob Protano (absent)
6. Introduction of members of West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee, Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee and guests attending July 22nd meeting.

Welcome: Dr. Tashjian

Others in attendance:

 - Diran Apelian
 - Pauline-Greenways
 - Nancy Lucier- West Boylston Municipal Assistant
 - Faith Maron- Landmark

- Bob Hyde
- Amanda Amery- Montachusett Regional Planning Committee
aamory@mrpc.org
guyett51@charter.net
- Tashjian**: presented the West Boylston plan to Sterling
- Brian**: will give copy of Sterling plan on CD Rom to West Boylston
- Spencer**: Amanda interested in how we (Sterling) reach out in a regional basis, and EO418 grants
- Mike**: Did some work with Montachusett before. End results were very good.
- Amanda**: one of recommendations that came out of the Sterling plan was to develop an Implementation committee
 - working on regional plan for trail ways
 - housing, economic development, open space, etc
 - \$30,000 made available to each committee, to develop plans if didn't already have them. Now move to master plans
 - how to create affordable housing while saving open space and maintaining a tax basis to support the town.
- Spencer**: town had the option to use through regional planning commissions or hire others
- Brian**: it's a data collection project. Contains other elements not directly related to Open Space
- Spencer**: had open meetings to discuss options and services, in final stages now.
- Brian**: due to limited budgets had to pick battles. From open space all the way to traffic safety.
- Mike**: is there any work/opportunities that would extend into West Boylston, other than the rail trail?
- Brian**: clear connections with Stillwater basins and wildlife corridors and a greater regional trail system.
- Amanda**: 11 town region: Wachusett Working Landscape Partnership, trying to Make connections to protect
- Spencer**: potential partners for Sterling Fair
- Betsy**: When is Sterling Fair
- Brian**: Sep 10, 11, 12
- Tashjian**: first joint meeting with Sterling demonstrated we could work together on a number of issues, Sterling Fair is the main focus
 - Also Big E- brochures included in packet. All are welcome to be there and participate at the Big E
 - Bob will now take over the meeting to discuss the Sterling Fair

7. Purpose of this meeting

Sterling Fair

- Spencer**: idea of joint meeting came from West Boylston board.
 - what we've done since the last meeting, incubating the idea of a land conservation exhibit at the Sterling Fair.
 - WB
 - Sterling

- Wachusett Greenways
- need larger than a 10 X 10
- have list of other organizations to contact if we choose
- what do we want in the display
- get our reservation, pay the fee
- July 27th there is a meeting with the Sterling Fair Committee, should be present

Pauline: Greenways get two 10 x 10's to set up

Maryanne: 10 X 20 \$50

20 X 40 is \$150

-other space available free of charge

Pauline: concerns of being stuck in the back of a tent

Maryanne: having a tent of our own with a common theme and separate area

Mike: having a 10 X 20 is out of the question

Brian: Theme: Regional Open Space Activities and Recreation, inform/educate people. Need to limit what's in the tent and be separate from others.

Bob: lets come up with a theme

Maryanne: phrase needs to be catchy

Amanda: focus on the trails, water quality aspect,

Tashjian: Regional Open Space is comprehensive covering many areas, concerned about setting out just as recreation activities.

Brain: Good to educate people that "open space" is

Faith: "Working to preserve family friendly land in your own backyard"

Mike: the word greenways should be in their as well

Besty: Headline be a question? "How Open Space Can be Conserved in Your Community"

Tashjian: Open Space means a lot of things to a lot of different people. Challenge education aspect should dovetail with the other activities. To the average person, Open space is not going to mean the same thing

Amanda: it's a public resource, want to make the public aware that they'll have access to. Wachusett Reservoir: fishing, Sterling rail trail (Leominster and sterling)

Tashjian: agree, but mission goes beyond recreation uses

Spencer: wants to sign up volunteers to participate in implementation activities.

Brian: important to go through the list to see who we want to also participate in The tent. Nashua Rivershed Association.

Mike: staffing a rotating shift of representatives who are selling items.

Amanda: fundraising may be an opportunity, new sponsor members, etc.

Pauline: Need a space because sells a lot of items . Getting people to volunteer. 3 People per 2 hours. Coverage is an issue.

Brian: -WB

-Sterling

-Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

-Nashua Rivershed Watershed Association

-Central Mass Regional Planning Commission

-Wachusett Greenways

-Sterling Recreation Committee

- Sterling Conservation Commission
- East Lake Washakum Association
- having some pamphlets may be of some interest to fair goers
- Spoke to Jim French (DCR), couldn't get a delegate from Sterling Land Trust
- DCR would be good
- Stillwater Farm
- Maryann Larson works for Mass Wildlife to increase visibility of their agency

Spencer: got form Amanda, Mass Watershed Collation, Purewater Stewardship, Clinton Greenways Conservation Trust, Clinton Open Space Committee

Amanda: creating a linkage from Mass Central Rail trail and Berlin

Tashjian: important to stay focused on Open Space of WB and Sterling, careful to have any one group takeover and the open space to get lost. Clearly put out into theme and lays a foundation to grow from there.

Amanda: sees point, suggests pursuing the Clinton linkage. Not a lot of open space left and will be pivotal.

Brian: It'll be our tent and we'll make it whatever we want it to be.

Betsy: seems Land Trust is pivotal for Open Space. Ordinary citizen doesn't know what their options are

Bob: theme is still land and open space

Mike: all these groups have separate agendas, but have a core theme of Open space.

Brian: "From Soccer to Salemanders"

Mike: "The Big Green Tent" Cover everything

Brian: Open space planning, concerned with overselling green, by not getting all the people in tent that we'd want to get in. Don't want to scare people off.

Amanda: people advocate for Open Space because they want to four-wheel and run their snowmobile through it. Is there an Equestrian interest?

Maryanne: somehow doesn't connote the type of thing we're trying to pursue here. Snowmobiling is very noisy and destructive, automatically causes a polarization, and want to avoid that contingency.

Brian: Equestrian access point right in that region.

Mike: Don't know of any specific groups of people from this region. Other regions have great partnerships with byways dedicated to each activity and the paths do not cross. All coming out of Open Space efforts.

Maryanne: "The Land You Love, The Trails You Follow," segway that into conservation, open space, agriculture.

Tashjian: "Coalition of Regional Open Space Conservation, Recreation,....."

Diran: all the other organizations are their to support with the focus on Open Space. Have a theme that grabs people. When a fair takes place, want to attract people, what do you want them to leave with. What do we want them to think about.

Brian: appreciation for what open space planning really is. Need it to be a better word without a negative connotation.

Amanda: who are you going to capture while you're there.

Tashjian: groups we're going to invite are part of that total picture.

Spencer: next steps?

- create a subcommittee to take it to the next step. Could only be a few people
- budget, registration, sign, getting volunteers, tents, tables. Create a "cool" tent.

Tashjian: wants to stay together, since we're not too big.

Spencer: Thurs 6:30 at Municipal Building at Sterling. Sterling Fair Meeting.

Maryanne: would be in a specific area.

Brian: proposal for how to handle the fair. 20 X 40 is \$150

Wachusett secure a 10 X 20, and a Sterling/ WB 20 X 40, spaces next to one another.

Land trust will front the \$150, and then figure out how to reimburse.

Mike: split up organizations to call,

Spencer: WB land trust will contribute to the costs.

- The spaces are actually 20 X 20 and 10 X 15.
- Greenways will get a 20 X 20 and we'll get a 20 X 20
- not sure of the cost.

Brian: will get it clarified.

- discussed the possible involvement of Clinton's Open Space
- should at least invite the bordering towns of West Boylston and Sterling.
- spread the wings a little bit this year and then later involving all bordering towns.

Brian: limit it to towns that abut Sterling because it's the Sterling Fair.

- Holden
- Lancaster
- Clinton
- Leominster
- West Boylston

Spencer: Schedule a next meeting to discuss signage and more nitty gritty details.

-Bob Spencer or representative should meet at the Sterling Fair Committee meeting, July 29th at 6:30pm- Sterling Municipal Building

Next Meeting: Friday, July 30th Selectman's Room in Mixter Municipal Building in West Boylston, 7pm.

8. Big E: "Preserving America's Family Farmland and Heritage" (September 17 – October 3, 2004) 18 X 30 foot exhibit in Farm-A-Rama Building. Malden Brook Farm Heritage Center

9. Continued discussion on areas of mutual concern and collaboration and how we can share and help each other to meet the comprehensive challenges of Open Space now.

10. Other business

Spencer: open to public through landmark, to supply ideas to Maryanne McCloud (Marmacster@aol.com) for ideas for table.

- Set a deadline: August 1st deadline.

- to expand membership, to tackle ideas that are in plan

Brian: get volunteers to work on concise projects that have a start and a finish.

- trails, land acquisitions, etc.

12. Adjournment: 8:50pm