

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Regional meeting with
STERLING OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Town of Sterling

Minutes

Friday, July 30th, 2004
Selectman's Room – 7:00 pm
Mixer Municipal Building, West Boylston

1. Secretary Pro Tem for this meeting: Ms. Linda Bogosian
2. Call to Order: 7:15 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 (absent)
 - d.) Tom Halpin, M.D. (absent)
 - e.) Karen Pare (absent)
 - f.) Val Pruneau (absent)
 - g.) Barbara Wyatt (absent)
5. Members of Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee:
 - a.) Robert Spencer, Chairman (present)
 - b.) Brian Cline, Vice Chairman (absent)
 - c.) Marian Lawson (absent)
 - d.) Maryanne MacLeod (present)
 - e.) Sue Valentine (absent)
 - f.) Bob Protano (absent)
6. Discussion and approval of the minutes of the July 22nd meeting followed by an apology from Mr. Peckar in that he would have to leave the meeting at 7:45 PM as he had a prior commitment. The rest of the committee accepted the apology with understanding.

7. "Tilling the shares" by Neil D. Brett, Sunday Telegram, June 20, 2004 was again reviewed. At this time, Ms. Maryanne MacLeod stated that she had started an organic farming group in Sterling. The e-mail address for this group is chocksettcoop@aol.com. The Selectmen have approved the effort and will partnership with the schools on the importance of farming and growing organic foods. Maryanne went on to inform the committee on the efforts to save the Mudgett Farm in Sterling.
8. Sterling Fair Discussion - Chaired by Robert Spencer

Mr. Robert Spencer stated lots of press coverage should be allotted to the efforts of the Open Space Committees.

Ms. Maryanne MacLeod suggested that T-shirts might be advantageous for our efforts but Mr. Robert Spencer said that there was no available money for these and if T-shirts were an option, they would be an out of pocket expense.

Dr. Robert Tashjian suggested that sponsors might be considered; namely, banks, developers, etc.

Mr. Michael Peckar stated that though this was a good idea, it might be too late to secure sponsors but that we should consider this the next time.

Participating organizations such as the Sterling Land Trust, etc., Sterling and West Boylston organizations that can be identified with the Open Space plans of Sterling and West Boylston should be invited and included if possible. Mr. Spencer suggested that interested organizations/parties need to respond by August 12th and should be invited to attend the August 12th meeting of this committee. A list of potential participants as of July 30 was provided along with the agenda for this evening's meeting. Mr. Robert Spencer has been in contact with the Princeton Open Space Committee, the Leominster Land Trust, the Lancaster Land Trust, the Clinton Greenways Trust and the South Meadow Pond and Wildlife Association. Mr. Peckar has spoken with the White Oaks Land Trust and will contact the Holden Open Space Committee as well as the Princeton Land Trust. Ms. Maryann MacLeod will speak with the Friends of the Wachusett Watershed and see if they are interested in participating. Mr. Michael Peckar will contact Worcester's Land Trust to see if they are interested in this project. All will report back to the committee on their findings.

The committee agreed that two 10x20 spaces would be needed. Sterling has already reserved space and paid the \$50 required fee. There is no electricity available at the site but the committee felt there was no need for electric power. The committee will provide its own tents.

Mr. Michael Peckar suggested that Greenways might have a tent and he will follow up on this. He also said that planning would be necessary as to how it would fit. Mr. Peckar will let Mr. Spencer know the details once he has secured the information.

Mr. Robert Spencer brought up the necessity of establishing the name of the theme for the event. It was suggested that the public be invited to offer names for the theme. Dr. Robert Tashjian stated that it was most important that the theme focused upon CONSERVATION/RECREATION/AGRICULTURE. The Regional Coalition of Open Space theme was mentioned as well. All present agreed on the main focus.

Ms. Maryanne MacLeod suggested the possibility of having a banner made for the event. The expense of a banner will be researched. Mr. Peckar said he has a large white board we might use but the concern for wind was brought up. Ms. MacLeod also brought up the subject of brochures and Dr. Tashjian said he

could help to make these but we would first have to see the various groups participating. All members of this committee were advised to think about the preparation of this brochure. It was agreed that AGRICULTURE was the major link to the Fair.

At this time Dr. Robert J. Tashjian told the committee that he had two baby deer that had been rescued from Mount Wachusett and were being cared for at his hospital. Research will be done as to the possibility of bringing the deer to the Fair. Ms. Maryanne MacLeod will speak with Marian Lawson as to whether or not this is possible considering that they are wild animals. The committee was delighted with the expectation of bringing the deer to the Fair and felt they would be a tremendous attraction for children. Mr. Spencer said that he had two daughters that are familiar with animals as they work at the Davis Farm and they would probably be happy to guard and care for the protection of the deer. Note – Since the meeting, Mr. Spencer and Doctor Tashjian has spoken to Marian Lawson and this is not possible according to state wildlife regulations.

Mr. Peckar suggested that it was important that the Division of Conservation and Recreation (MDC) be contacted and invited to participate. He also suggested that if all the various groups participate, even more space will be needed for the event.

Dr. Robert Tashjian told the committee that Pride Park, a West Boylston group had contacted him and stated that they were interested in participating. Dr. Tashjian will have brochures relating to Malden Brook Farm available.

Again, considering the amount of interest that will finally be generated and included in this event, Mr. Peckar stated that we would definitely need 2 10x20 areas or even maybe one 20x20 area. Also, if the deer are allowed to come, they would need separate provisions and an area for a pen.

Ms. MacLeod told the committee that she felt it was most important that the public be told WHY open space is so very important. She felt the committee needed to give much thought as to how this could be achieved. Dr. Robert Tashjian said the Jim French has lots of facts on this subject and would be a big help. This consideration of how to educate the public and get the word out on the importance of open space will be a separate item on the agenda at the next meeting.

Mr. Robert Spencer suggested that the committee postpone further items on the agenda until the next meeting and it was agreed by those present.

At this time, Mr. Spencer thanked Dr. Robert Tashjian for taking the lead in this entire effort and personally thanked him on behalf of the committee. Mr. Spencer also commented on how nice it was to have the agenda so well presented and how much it helped in conducting an orderly meeting. Mr. Spencer asked Dr. Tashjian to continue in his position of leadership and Dr. Tashjian thanked Mr. Spencer agreed to do so.

NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2004 - 7 PM - SELECTMAN'S ROOM - MIXTER MUNICIPAL BUILDING, WEST BOYLSTON

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 PM

