

West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee
11/29/2007 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Dr. Tashjian, Barbara Wyatt, Brenda Bowman, Jim Edmundson, Vincent Vignaly

Dr. Tashjian did not arrive until later, so Jim chaired the meeting and Vincent acted as clerk.

Meeting was opened at 7:10

Minutes from 11/15/07 were reviewed and accepted as amended. Barbara motioned, Brenda second. Board vote was unanimous.

Dr. T will provide meeting minutes for the 11/01/07 meeting before the next meeting for review.

Vinny said he met with Leon Gaumond who told him that no survey is going to be done in time for this update.

Committee discussed the revisions prepared by Jim and made comments for sections 1 and 2. These are a good basis to build on as we proceed with the update. Jim stated that the format is used by agencies to review for grant applications, so we will keep the existing OS&R plan format.

Jim described how Open space is not just aesthetics, but provides public health and safety benefits as well as quality of life. Vinny added that it also provides community character and this should be included in all lists of the benefits in the plan.

The committee reviewed and was impressed with section 1 and wanted to keep it to a single page. Section 2A was good with minor changes as noted, and section 2B was a good draft to reduce the details of naming specific persons who provided input to each section and make it more representative of a group effort with notes of from where the information was compiled. The committee needs to keep records of minutes and contacts/meetings where we get our information and include a footnote to the references section of the update.

Section 3.c. Vinny to add a sentence at the intro noting that the previous report information has not been updated because there is no new census data since 2000. The DCR-owned land inventory will be updated, and the old paragraph updated and relocated to follow this introduction. Brenda to contact DCR to get total ownership of land and water in West Boylston; and the locations and amounts of land purchased in WB since 2001.

Vinny to update zoning changes since 2002 on page 17.

Barbara and Brenda to update sewer area info, including percent of town sewer; percent not connected in the sewer areas; number of houses connected; average daily flow of all WB including all areas flowing to Worcester and Holden.

Jim to add paragraph regarding loss of available recharge due to sewer construction, and potential impacts to wells.

Brenda will email comments and changes recommended from the Water District and will email Vinny.

Brenda to update building permit information from 2000-2007, page 19.

Vinny to provide ANR and subdivision lots since 2000, page 21.

Barbara/Brenda to update 61, 61A, 61B information, page 36.

Barbara to update research on water quality degradation in Gates Brook, page 37.

Mike Peckar to get information regarding Rail Trail, Greenways, and Land Trust updates, page 40.

Barbara to contact Historical Commission to get their updates, page 40-41.

Jim to flesh out Section 4.G and Committee discuss his draft and made changes. Vinny will incorporate these comments in the next draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Jim to update AVMF aspects into Malden Brook Farm update, page 45.

The Committee discussed entities interested in and capable of purchasing land to maintain as open space: DCR, CPA through Town Meeting vote, the Water District, private nonprofits, and private philanthropists.

Vinny to change and update the bylaws enforcement paragraph, page 44.

Next meeting was discussed as being Thursday, December 13, at 7:00pm. The following meeting will be Thursday, January 3.

Motion to adjourn by Barbara at 9:50. Seconded by Brenda. Unanimous vote.