

**Town of West Boylston
Open Space Advisory Committee
Animal Medical Center/Conference Center
29 Prospect Street
West Boylston, MA 01583**

Minutes: Thursday, 07 August 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members present: Dr. Robert Tashjian (Chair), Brenda Bowman, Barbara Wyatt, Vincent Vignaly, Ray Desanti, and Brian Bjorklund.

Others Present: Dr. Tashjian's sister, Steve Quist, Larry Salate (Planning Board), Robin Taher, Tom Ahearn and Rick Simmons (Ahearn Electrical).

Call to Order and Opening Comments: The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Tashjian at 7:08 p.m., with a 6 member quorum present. Dr. Tashjian announced that Brian Bjorklund would be acting secretary for the meeting. Dr. Tashjian introduced and welcomed all present.

5-Year Open Space and Recreation Plan: The Plan was presented in front of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on July 16, 2008 and was unanimously approved. Vinny mentioned he would conduct some research on House Bill 394, and 61a and 61b are well-known by Assessors. Questions were raised during the BOS meeting wondering why there were no sewers on Lee Street. Dr. Tashjian brought up that we have a need to protect "overground and underground. The vitality of open space is very important." He also mentioned the presence of botulism spores on the 4.5 acre Lee Street parcel that, if disturbed, may lead to some serious problems. If we leave the area as is, maybe the botulism threats would be minimized. Dr. T. also said the Open Space Plan is necessary in order for the Town to get grants.

A new Agricultural Commission was discussed and would include Open Space Committee members as well as new members. Public Education and Advertisements were talked about and there is a need for an article in the Banner before the October Town Meeting. A motion by Vinny that the Open Space Advisory Committee request that a warrant article be prepared for the October Town Meeting to create an Agricultural Commission was seconded by Brenda and Ray, and was approved by all.

The change of the name of the Open Space Advisory Committee to the Open Space Implementation Committee was discussed. There was a motion by Ray to request that the Board of Selectmen change the name as noted and to grant the Committee authority to implement the recommendations that was seconded by Brenda, and approved by all.

Vinny brought to attention a few parts of the Plan that have not yet been finished. Two maps still need to be updated (Zoning Map and Existing Open Space). These maps can not be provided by the Town Assessors (Nancy Lucier has been very helpful to try to coordinate this) but CMRPC or a private cartographer (Cartographic Associates) can possibly do it. The

Planning Board will be asked to have CMRPC to produce these two maps (They get 10 hours of free services from CMRPC versus possibly thousands of dollars through a private business). Letters of support from the BOS and CMRPC are needed before we send the 2008 Update to the Division of Conservation Services. Once comments from Division of Conservation Services are received the Plan will be completed! Vinny will call Division of Conservation Services and inform them that our Plan is complete pending acquisition of two maps.

Brief background of Inter-relationships between Committees: Dr. T. mentioned that Open Space Committee meetings began at the Animal Hospital after the Mixter building was condemned. Dr. T. gave a background of the Committee as well as the Sentinel Animal Task Force. Representative O'Day will be going on an in-depth tour of Malden Brook Farm to get a better idea of the Regional Center for Biosurveillance. Barbara suggested removing "Regional" from the title, but it is a regional unit, so even with the recent bad press articles, the name should remain. At the 7/16/08 BOS meeting, the Selectmen and the Town Administrator unanimously voted that they would participate in the Biosurveillance Program.

Bicentennial Parade (September 21, 2008): The Parade is to show the heritage and background of West Boylston. Brenda mentioned that the Governor was invited, but is unable to attend due to prior obligations. Representative O'Day, Congressman McGovern, and State Senator Chandler will all be walking in the Parade. The State Police Mounted Unit will not be able to attend the Parade. The DCR Mounted Unit is still new; the horses are ok for the woods, but are not ready for road-use(Funny, but I think it is more that all the activity during a parade would be too much).

Larry Salate and Dr. T. may enter their Model Ts into the Parade. Dr. T.'s father's Model T pickup needs to have motor and tire work in order to get it running. Larry Salate volunteered to help to try to get all these vehicles running. There's a possibility of Al (?) and Paul Cavanaugh riding in the back of the Model Ts.

The Parade route starts at Wachusett Plaza, through the Center, and ends at Goodale Park. There will be viewing stands in front of the Manor Restaurant as well as at the Animal Hospital. Dr. Taher offered her parking lot for our parking.

Ray offered to help with the tractors, but indicated there is a need for drivers.

Previous float ideas were great but were far too expensive and time-consuming.

Dr. T.'s old Army farm truck (M-37) would be great to have in the parade; Princess the miniature horse could be in the back as long as wooden sides were constructed. The truck also needs to be detailed.

There has been trouble finding driving horses for the Parade; we need 1-3 of these horses. Fay Brothers uses horses occasionally, as well as the Wayside Inn. Inquiries will be made to these places. Dr. Taher mentioned a local FedEx driver might have some and will investigate that.

Barbara thought someone should call the Banner to tell people to “look for these in the Parade.” Photos and information about Parade entries could be shown in the article. Mike Kane, Banner editor, will be called and will be invited to the next meeting.

The Parade is anticipated to be at least 2.5 hours long.

Fundraising: Dr. Taher said she would be happy to sponsor and would organize a raffle for free cleaning/filling/root canal/cap/etc. with proceeds going to the Open Space Committee.

Raffle House: Tom Ahearn and Rick Simmons from Ahearn Electrical talked with the Committee about raffling off a house on Columbus Day. Twenty percent of the profit goes to the Non-Profit (What is the official name?), as sponsor, through 501c3 (non-profit). All taxes and raffle fees will be paid for on the house, so the winner will walk right in. Raffle tickets will sell for \$100. 3,000 tickets need to be sold to break even, then profits accrue after that. The house is located at 633 Plantation St. in Worcester. They will be selling tickets at the Big E in Springfield and through radio adds that will be available because of the Non-Profit.

Adjournment: The committee planned its next meeting on 21 August. At this point, the West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:49 p.m.

Prepared: Brian M. Bjorklund 08/08/2008