

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Animal Medical Center, Conference Room
29 Prospect Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Members Present: Dr. Tashjian, Stephen Woodcock, Ray DeSanti, Barbara Wyatt, Vin Vignaly

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Brenda Bowman, Diana Engelbart, Sue Meola, Tony Meola

Dr. Tashjian called the meeting to order at 7:05. Vignaly to be clerk for the meeting.

The minutes from June 14, 2010 meeting were not available and need to be approved at the next meeting. Approval of the September 30, 2010 minutes was motioned by Ray, seconded by Stephen, and voted unanimously.

New Business:

Ray nominated Vin to be the Vice Chair. He accepted. Stephen motioned, Barbara seconded and voted unanimous support.

Vin nominated Stephen to be Clerk. He accepted. Ray motioned, Barbara seconded and voted unanimous support.

Vin reported that the October Town Meeting voted unanimous support for the Lee Street (Kent property) Acquisition, the Residential Cluster Development Bylaw, and the Right-to-Farm Bylaw. These were all items recommended in the Open Space and Recreation Plans since 2003.

Discussion of the DCR Wachusett Public Access Plan Update process that is beginning led to a list of items for future discussion at our next meeting. The following items are not all recommended, but are to be discussed and realistically evaluated in light of West Boylston's interests and the need to protect the drinking water supply. Ray suggested active participation is needed:

- a) Allow access for no till agriculture – this may be more of a Land Management Plan item.
- b) Bicycling, boating, snowmobiling, horseback riding, picnicking
- c) Improved maintenance and accessibility around the Old Stone Church, including parking, pedestrian access, and bicycle parking. Other considerations

The Telegram & Gazette article on November 12, 2010 entitled "State says open space investment will pay off" did not note West Boylston as a community which received funding. West Boylston received a grant from Department of Conservation Services for the Kent Property (Lee Street) acquisition. The OSIC sent a letter of recommendation to Mr. Ian Bowles noting support for this grant application last summer.

Diana was present to discuss the Master Plan Update specifically the Open Space Section. The committee recognized the need to utilize this process to highlight the recent accomplishments to the 2009 OS&R Plan, and update the focus for the next five years. The Master Plan section would be a more concise summary of the OS&R Plan, with clear statement of the current priorities, with reference back to the OS&R plan for other opportunities that may arise in the interim. Diana will work on these ideas with Vin before the next meeting and propose draft wording. A final version is needed by mid-winter and she will complete it with as much assistance as the OSIC is willing to provide.

Old Business:

Dr. Tashjian updated the committee on Malden Brook Farm, American Veterinary Medical Frontiers (AVMF), and 152 Prospect Street. MassDAR broke into the barn where Nora was kept and killed her on

November 16. This was a sad day, but the fight continues with assistance and support from professionals in the Nicaraguan and possibly Costa Rican equestrian community.

Susan Meola, and her husband Tony discussed their ideas for the 152 Prospect Street property. There is interest to renovate the buildings into a working farm with animals. Diana suggested a 'fiber farm', where Alpaca and Angora rabbits could be raised and their wool used to provide income. There is some question of this use being allowed on the portion of the property that DCR has a Conservation Restriction. Susan will contact Jim French at DCR for additional information. Coordination with the schools was discussed to increase viability as well as provide an opportunity for a new educational program in the school system.

Items suggested for the next agenda: DCR Public Access Plan issues, and Master Plan update.

Next meeting was set for Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 at the Animal Medical Center.

Barbara motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50, seconded by Stephen. Unanimous.

Submitted by: _____ Approved: 1/13/11
Vincent P. Vignaly