

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

June 20, 2011

Attendees: Dr. Robert Tashjian-Chair, Diana Engelbart, Barbara Wyatt, Vin Vignaly

Absent: Stephen Woodcock, Ray DeSanti

Meeting called to order at 7:05 at the Animal Medical Center Conference Room at 29 Prospect Street. Review and approval of minutes from 3/3/2011. Motioned-Barbara, seconded-Diana, unanimous. Still need to approve 4/21/11. Dr. Tashjian noted that all members have been reappointed to this committee for another year.

Vin made comments to the Open Space Section of the Master Plan update which Diana incorporated and discussed at the next Town-wide Planning Committee meeting.

The recent Municipal Land Use listening session was attended by Diana who recounted the high points. The Pine Grove was noted as being considered for a new Town Hall. Discussion that it was given as a “park”, but this needs to be researched. It was suggested that the Pine Grove be replanted through the DCR replanting program, but especially re-establish the buffer along the boundary abutting the Goodale residences. Discussion followed to encourage investigation with the Land Trust of Town acquisition of a portion of the property owned by the Eberts through a land donation or CPA-funded discounted price sale.

The dog walking/feces problems at the Rail Trail were discussed, and Diana will get the wording on the sign that Brenda Bowman has and check with the Police Chief to determine if it is appropriate. Then get it installed.

Diana attended a meeting relative to the Town’s interest and coordination needed to encourage working with the DCR Reforestation program with the Worcester Tree Initiative. She noted that they will need to locate the trees, determine the appropriate type, and coordinate a watering and maintenance program/volunteers. They areas of greatest interest were at the Pine Grove, the cemeteries, and the Town Common.

No progress has been made on the beautification of the square/island at Route 12 and Church Street or on determination of the next priority parcel for acquisition in Town, currently the 7.5 acre land on Prospect St.

The property at 223 Prescott St (Four Winds Farm) is advertised for sale for \$1.2 mil. Barbara will contact Jim French at DCR to determine their interest, and Vin will talk to GWLT for potential ag users interest, and Diana will check NOFA to encourage purchase by a member to continue the agricultural operations there.

Barbara attended the meeting for DCR Access Plan and offered suggestions:

1. Construct a scenic overlook at the south end of the Route 12 causeway for a couple of cars to pull off.
2. Improve the parking along the shoulders of Route 140 west of Route 12 at the Triangle to the church.
3. Consider assisting in the establishment of a Visitors Center in West Boylston.
4. Improve the trail maps and provide printable electronic versions to the town to include on their website.

Dr. Tashjian to send an email to Leon Gaumond and all those copied on Leon’s original email relative to local Conservation Restrictions asking him to consider that the OSIC be the group in town that keeps and manages the information. The OSIC is tasked through the OS&R plan to compile and monitor these data. The OS&R plan notes in multiple Action Items to maintain and encourage more property owners to commit to CRs to reduce the chances that existing open spaces become developed. He will note that the OSIC proposes to include this listing and update it in their annual Town Report document for all to see.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday August 22, 2011 at 7:00.

Diana motioned to adjourn at 8:35, seconded by Barbara, unanimous.