

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

September 29, 2011

Attendees: Vin Vignaly – Chair, Diana Engelbart, Barbara Wyatt, Stephen Woodcock, Ray DeSanti

Absent: Dr. Robert Tashjian

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM at the Animal Medical Center Conference Room at 29 Prospect Street. Steve Woodcock to be clerk for the meeting.

Review and approval of minutes from 20th June 2011. Motion to approve-Ray, seconded-Steve, unanimous approval. Minutes for 21st April 2011 still need to be approved.

Diana will follow up with Karen Pare on Open Space Section of the Master Plan update to ensure goals, strategy, action items and formatting are aligned.

The latest Municipal Land Use listening session was discussed (session attended by Diana). Two sessions have now taken place and the overwhelming feeling from the latest listening session was that Pine Grove would not be suitable for the new Town Hall. A suggestion to use the Mixture building/old land fill site location for a mini golf/driving range business was discussed. It was noted that this type of activity would be beneficial to the town from an open space, recreational and business viewpoint. Diana put forward a suggestion in the meeting regarding the River road location. Additional recreational space could be created to encourage more visitors to the area.

The dog walking/feces problems at the Rail Trail was discussed. Diana has a sign from Brenda Bowman and has checked with the Police Chief to ensure it is appropriate. Diana will contact the new head of the DPW to determine if it can be installed in the near future.

Discussions on the next priority parcel for acquisition in Town, (currently the 7.5 acre land on Prospect St) are ongoing with the owners of the property. The Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLTL) is assisting with discussions and further possible aid could be available as the area is next to a water supply.

Barbara contacted Jim French at DCR regarding the property at 223 Prescott St (Four Winds Farm); no updates at this time. Vin will talk to George Bernardin on the potential for donating property/land (Ebert property).

Keeping backyard chickens was discussed by the OSIC. Diana provided literature (on keeping backyard chickens) from the town of Barnstable and discussed City of Worcester guidelines. Diana proposed that the OSIC draft a letter to the Agriculture Committee to investigate what would be required to keep backyard chickens and adopting the Barnstable standards. Diana is willing to work with the Agriculture Committee to help with drafting guidelines.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday October 27th, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

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