

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (OSIC)

December 08, 2011

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

Absent: Dr. Robert Tashjian - Chair

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM at the Beaman Library, Story Book Room, 2nd floor.

Review and approval of minutes from 21st April 2011. Motion to approve - Barbara, seconded - Ray, unanimous approval.

Review and approval of amended minutes from 27th October 2011. Motion to approve - Barbara, seconded - Ray, unanimous approval.

The status of submission to the Town Clerk of 2011 OSIC minutes was reviewed by Vin. All outstanding minutes to be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Stephen as soon as possible.

Vin reminded the OSIC that the State Ethics test is required to be completed for all members. OSIC members are to review their status and take the test if appropriate.

Diana invited Dennis Minnich to describe his plans for the Malden Brook Farm property to the OSIC. Dennis gave a detailed breakdown of the 140 acre property, his plans and the various restrictions that are in place throughout the property:

- 95 acres have been placed in an Agriculture Preservation Restriction program (APR; 80 acres already placed under APR protection plus an extra 15 acres will be added).
- 35 acres have been placed under conservation restriction protection (through the DCR; therefore, no-tilling is allowed on this land).
- Approximately 1 acre for the farm house and barns (378 Prospect Street)
- Approximately 1 acre lot north of the farm house; unrestricted use.
- Approximately 8 acres around the Morton building (off Lee Street).

Dennis plans to farm the available land (rear organic beef, possibly chickens and grow vegetables); however, it will take some work to bring the fields back to their best condition. He plans to use the 8 acres for hay and farm equipment storage. Dennis would like to involve the community in the farm and allow public access where possible (he has approached the local school science classes to determine interest in projects). OSIC members discussed the possibility of hosting festivals (e.g. pumpkin festival, hay rides using heritage tractors etc) to encourage local community interest and participation. Dennis is open to suggestions on the use of the farm.

The property at 405 Prospect Street was discussed by the OSIC. Vin was approached by the Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) to determine the level of interest of the abutters in purchasing the land. The majority of the land is under conservation restriction protection and the general consensus of the OSIC was that this property would be good to retain as open space for the town. The OSIC committed to further discuss what role the property could fulfill for the town in the next meeting.

Diana had just received feedback (from the Town Wide Planning committee) on the proposed OSIC revisions to the Open Space Section of the Master Plan update and will work on implementing the changes.

AOB

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday February 09th, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Beaman Library, Story Book Room, 2nd floor.

Barbara motioned to adjourn at 7:55 PM, seconded by Diana, unanimous approval.