

November 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Town Hall, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston, MA

OSIC:Attendees: *Vin Vignaly, Barbara Wyatt, Ray DeSanti, Brenda Bowman, Debi Mattison*; Guest: *Chris Berglund*

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Welcome to new member Debi Mattison.

On a motion by Brenda Bowman, and a second by Ray DeSanti, minutes of October 29, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

- 1) Open Space Survey Response: Vin Vignaly reported 178 responses had been received, though it was not clear if this number included the hard copies returned to Town Hall, and the committee looked over the report. There were many open ended responses reported, which allow for inclusion of unexpected information, but make analysis of the survey more difficult. Each member received a copy of the survey results and will review it in more detail before the next meeting. We will discuss the survey details at the next meeting. Barbara Wyatt asked how many hard copies were returned, but Vin will report back at the next meeting.
- 2) Members were asked for their comments on the draft revision to the Community Preservation manual. Vin had already drafted some comments. Members agreed with the comments made and expressed concern why the OSIC was not a member. Vin noted that George Bernardin is on the Community Preservation Committee and he represented the land trust/open space issues. Members were asked to review the manual and make comments before the weekend.
- 3) Members reviewed our acquisition property list:
 - 264 Prospect St. - Greater Worcester Land Trust has contacted the owner, but the owner is not very interested.
 - Milton Property - The owners have long protected this property and intend to remain doing so. They have no interest in any protective mechanisms from the town or State.
 - 405 Prospect St. - This property is still in bankruptcy court and already has a Watershed Preservation Restriction with the DCR on 30 of the 42 or so acres.
 - Caroll's Pond - It was discussed that this land was purchased at bank auction and the owner intends to build a house or two if it is possible. Nothing has come before the Planning Board regarding splitting the lot in two. This is about 24 acres, with about 20 protected by a DCR Watershed Preservation Restriction already.
 - 289 Maple St. - Greater Worcester Land Trust is in discussions with this owner to acquire the property, mostly swamplands where it connects back to Shrewsbury Street.
- 4) The town open space plan expires at the end of November. The committee will continue planning for the update. Cooperation with the Parks and Parks Facilities Committees was encouraged. Having a new OSIC member from Parks Committee is encouraging, though it appears that he was not on the email list yet, so was not aware of the meeting.
- 5) New business: There was general discussion regarding newspaper articles about Holy Cross potentially purchasing 52 acres for a meditation/retreat center at 1000 Goodale Street. There was concern stated that it removed approximately \$1M from the taxable lands in town...with no Payment in Lieu of

Taxes being made, either. Discussion of requesting permission for some access/trails on the land so that a hiking and cross country skiing connection can be made to the DCR property all the way to River Road.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40PM. Next meeting will be Tuesday January 7th, 2014 at 7PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wyatt