

Meeting Minutes April 10, 2014
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
Town Hall, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston, MA

Attendance: *Vin Vignaly, Barbara Wyatt, Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Debi Mattison, Gary Flynn*
Absent: *John Hadley*

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m.

On a motion by Brenda Bowman, and a seconded by Debi Mattison, the minutes of January 30, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

1. Vin Vignaly reported that the request to remove land from Chapter 61A protection at 152 Prospect Street was approved by the Selectmen. There was discussion from our last meeting that this property would have provided a connection from Goodale Street to Prospect Street via the town-owned Pine Glenn property; but the existing DCR restrictions near Carol's Pond prohibited construction of trails. The need for maintenance of the pond dam structure also appeared to be a significant liability of unknown costs.
2. The OSIC discussed the draft of the Open Space and Recreation section to be included in the Town Master Plan. **On a motion by Brenda Bowman and a seconded by Debi Mattison, the Open Space and Recreation Section for the Master Plan was approved to be sent to the Town-Wide Planning Committee unanimously.**
3. Discussion of information from the recent Parks Committee (PC) meeting. Gary Flynn, Brenda Bowman, and Vin Vignaly attended the meeting, and reported that the PC's greatest concern is that the town needs an additional practice field near the high school. The existing fields are overused and cannot be given adequate rotation out of use (rest time) to stabilize grass conditions with the constant use required by the existing athletic opportunities in town. The Request for Proposals was advertised recently for the Goodale Park Planning Study that was funded at the October Town Meeting. Discussion of better maintenance and management of uses of available fields and timing of the pesticides and nutrient applications were discussed. The OSIC asked that an email be sent to the DPW director asking for more detail of the contract with TruGreen for the chemical applications. Members mentioned complaints from parents with young children in soccer who were requested to bring their children to play on the fields within days of application. There were comments of rashes and concerns that the required time after treatments was not followed and don't want to place any townspeople in danger this year.
4. Discussion of Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting where Vin Vignaly was asked to review the OSIC's recommended changes to the CPC plan. Vin Vignaly's past understanding from when we made application for the Lee Street property acquisition is no longer the protocol. He believed that all projects submitted to the CPC that meet the applicable standards were forwarded to Town Meeting for the townspeople to decide to fund or not. But the new Draft CPC plan will clearly state that they will review applications for projects that request funding and apply specific standards to determine if they merit forwarding to Town Meeting for consideration. The CPC will review projects to present the most useful projects to the town. The CPC is compiling all comments to their draft plan and will circulate a new draft for further comments.

5. Discussion of the sections of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) that will need significant effort were reviewed. While the original OSRP and two previous updates were done by volunteers from our committee, it was clear that the work needed was more than could be expected from the committee. **Upon motion by Gary Flynn, and seconded by Ray Desanti it was unanimously voted to ask the Town Administrator for direction for the protocol to hire a consultant to prepare the town update.**
6. Brenda Bowman asked the OSIC to add 19 Crescent Street to the lands of interest for Open Space protection. it is a 4 acre property in the center of town that has been vacant for many years. The OSIC will pull together additional information and consider it at our next meeting.

Upon motion by Gary Flynn, and seconded by Debi Mattison it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting was scheduled for 7:00 pm Thursday, May 22, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wyatt