

MINUTES January 7, 2014
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)
West Boylston Town Hall, 127 Hartwell St.

OSIC Attendees: *Vin Vignaly, Barbara Wyatt, Debi Mattison, Gary Flynn*
Absent: *Ray DeSanti, Brenda Bowman, John Hadley*
Guest: *John Schlichte*

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. Welcome to new member Gary Flynn from Parks and Recreation Committee.

On a motion by Debi Mattison, and a second by Barbara Wyatt, minutes of November 27, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

OSIC Survey Review: Vin Vignaly presented a summary of the survey responses. Members commented and reflected on various answers. The committee will draft a narrative summary for the public to be posted on the OSIC Website, for our records, and for submittal to The Banner. There were 178 responses via computer and 4 hardcopies submitted. With so many open-ended responses, it is a challenge to summarize and present the data. Respondents overwhelmingly wanted more and improved sidewalks, and swimming facilities. John Schlichte encouraged educating Townspeople of the availability of the DCR pool in Clinton on Route 110, which is available to residents, but does not seem to be generally known. Holden charges fees for use of their pools, while the Clinton state pool is free. Many residents do not seem to know about the state pool. The question about Town funding clearly focused on maintenance of existing facilities and creation of new athletic facilities was not in the top 5. Barbara Wyatt suggested grouping the results between things that the town can do for itself, and things that the town should try to partner with DCR to accomplish. A couple of respondents mentioned trail mapping, which was a priority listed by our committee for attention last year. Respondents also called for better bike lanes around the reservoir and to amenities (business development potential?).

Comments submitted by the OSIC to the Community Preservation Committee relative to their draft Manual Update were received, but a meeting to discuss the issues has not been held.

A request for assistance from Mr. Gaumond for ADA Self-Evaluation at Town recreation areas was noted by Mr. Vignaly. Interested members will contact Mr. Gaumond to get more involved if they wish.

Other Topics: We reviewed information for new members on lands and acreage in bankruptcy on Prospect Street. Discussion of the potential to use a portion of Woodland Park or the landfill for a dog park or deck hockey were low priorities. Committee reflected on whether it was cost effective to even have a pool in our town. Gary Flynn noted that the study being done for Goodale Park will provide basic area needs and costs associated with a pool, a spray park, and other potential uses. Leon Gaumond was willing to run a focus group with the seniors on Open Space if desired by the OSIC to get their input since the survey was most easily accessible by computer and many seniors are not as adept with computers as other age groups.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35. Next meeting will be Tuesday February 20, 2014 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Wyatt, Clerk