

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

January 2, a public hybrid meeting in the Collins Room

* Action items and votes below in bold face

RECEIVED

2024 FEB - 7 1 A 9: 31

- 7:00 PM, Rosa opens the meeting. Committee pledges allegiance to the flag. Roll call:
 - Present: (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Michael Rosa, Maria Martin, Mike Parker
 - (Remotely): Maria Martin, Mike Parker
 - Excused: Katie Shubin
 - Staff: (In person): Erika Jerram. (Remotely): Katherine Malgieri
 - Consultants: (Remotely): Peter Flinker, Eli Bloch, Shaine Meulmester
- (1) Open mic: Andrew Jennings attended in person and reported on new developments on the trail front: MassBike attempts to provide an advisory role in the MassDOT Project Initiation process. At a 12/28/23 Zoom call with MassBike, the informal trails group discussed a Middlesex Canal towpath segment (Historic Mill District Museum to Riverneck Road in Chelmsford). Chelmsford would be the Lead. Jennings provides a handout with two suggestions. Erika will share the digital document with D&F:
 - Include the project in the OSRP
 - Loop-in municipal staffThe comment was well received.
- (2) Bartlett moves to accept the 12/5 minutes as presented, seconded by Bowen. Roll call **vote**: Bartlett, yes; Bowen, yes; Damon, yes; Henderson, yes; Martin, yes; Parker, yes, Rosa, yes (unanimous) or 7-0-0.
- (3) Bloch provided a summary of Public Forum 1, and a handout outlining the next 'Priorities & Values' Public Forum 2. All thought the Forum format was successful. It drew much public attention. Repeated comments: Ditson 'Park' popularity; Need for trail-connectivity, specifically into neighboring towns; Need for safe walking and bicycling infrastructure.
 - The next Forum will be on **January 17**, similar to the first Forum format, but with two added stations: Pedestrian and Bike Connectivity and an Online Zoom Group, the latter moderated from the **D&F** office.
 - The Survey link (deadline January 28) resulted in 474 completed surveys to date.
 - **D&F** will send section 3 (demographics) and 4 (inventory) drafts for **OSRPC** homework, due 1/17.
 - **Malgieri** will contact **Henderson** and **Bartlett** relative to the implementation matrix. **Bartlett** is to focus on the newly added Parks Department.
- **Old Business**
 - (4a) Rosa gives update on Buckingham: The Town sent the filled-out form regarding the removal of the gate and no-trespassing sign to National Grid. Response-time is 60-80 days, so Clancy contacted National Grid to expedite it. In the meantime, National Grid attached another sign to the gate to announce "refurbishment project line 338" – which means wooden poles will be replaced by metal ones. Reportedly, this proposed work should be completed by the end of 2024.
 - (4b) John Curran contacted Eichman (KP Law) about the RR ROW. No changes to report.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

January 28, a duly posted Field Trip

*** Action items and votes below in bold face**

- 9:45 AM Present: John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Mike Parker
Excused: Katie Shubin, Mike Rosa, Maria Martin
Staff: Katherine Malgieri
Consultants: Eli Bloch
Public: Dina Favreau

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WfGBXZt7fq5yNF8C7>

- Parking our cars at the Vining Fields (121 Lexington Rd), participants started walking at 10 AM. They walked the Vining Path to 612 Middlesex Tpke, from where the Billerica Recreation bus took them to the bottom (western end) of Richardson St. They then walked through town-owned 'Cabot' Land to Parker St. A bus ride took them to Pollard Field, from where they walked Cider Mill Land to the Whiffletree aka "Rustic Barn" aka "Indian Springs", and then on to the top of Billerica: Fox Hill, where the bus waited to return them to their cars at the Vining Fields at approximately 12:15 PM; a 2-hour tour, during which the rain changed to snow, and the land changed to a winter wonderland.
- Any that hadn't seen these parcels prior were amazed how much open space 'wilderness' still remains in Billerica.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson