

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024, a public hybrid meeting in the Collins Room

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

- 6:30 PM, Rosa opens the meeting. Roll call and introductions:
 - Present: (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Mike Parker¹, Michael Rosa
(Remotely): Katie Shubin, Maria Martin
 - Staff: (In person): Kat Malgieri, Jessie Hampson
 - Consultants: (Remotely): Peter Flinker, Eli Bloch, Shaine Meulmester
 - Public: Andrew Jennings, Kathy Meagher
- 1) Open mic: Andrew Jennings shared that the independent FORTT² group of which he is a member, successfully presented their regional trails slide show at two significant meetings:
 - A March 20 MABPAB³ meeting hosted by NMCOG, where Pete Sutton encouraged FORTT with advice and sample forms to initiate new regional trail proposals, particularly with respect to the Billerica Branch and the Thoreau Towpath.
 - A March 21 Middlesex Canal Commission meeting. One of its statutory members is State Representative Dave Robertson, who suggested starting (Thoreau Towpath) trail initiatives on the Lowell end because the gateway city gets prioritized for grant funding.
- 2) Bartlett moves to accept the 3/12 minutes as presented, seconded by Parker. Roll call **vote**: Unanimous yes or 8-0-0.
- 3) Kat shows images of the 4 types of tree-saplings to be given away: 100 tulip poplars (up to 80 ft), 100 Lincoln Douglas Fir (up to 100 ft tall), 100 red bud tree (up to 30 FT) and 100 lilac (up to 15 FT). Kat is waiting to hear the delivery date. The give-away date is 4/27 (day after Arbor Day). Planting should happen asap. Kat circulates sign-up sheets and the planning@town.billerica.ma.us email address. There was discussion on combining Clean Up Green with National Arbor Day Celebration in 2025.
- 4) Henderson asks to skip to the consultant's item, (5) – and item 4 was subsequently forgotten.
- 5) OSRP Consultant Eli screen-shared slides with the results of the 3/20 Public Forum. Henderson requested to receive slides in advance. Rosa asked the numbers of forum attendees: 15 attended in-person, 8 attended the zoom meeting to rank goals, objectives, and actions. Committee members extensively reviewed a handout and deliberated extensively on

¹ At 9:20 Parker switched to remote attendance

² Friends Of Regional Trails and Towpaths

³ MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory board

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responsible parties for seven goals. Some goals / objectives and actions were re-phrased to reflect the intent more accurately, with particular emphasis on resident input in e.g. creating plans for the Ditson and Vining parcels. Meagher commented to add the HDC as responsible party for the 7th goal. By 4/26, Eli / Kat will email the next draft Action Plan for review (homework). Eli asked about other homework (chapter 3 and 4). Kat will re-share the homework with members. Henderson asks if consultants received her homework on regional trail connectivity. They did.

6) Old Business

- Buckingham canoe access update: After hearing nothing for some time, Clancy emailed Tammy, stating that Billerica will remove the gate unless Nat. Grid responds otherwise. Nat. Grid promptly responded that Tammy no longer works there. Clancy found another contact (Steve) to email him that Billerica will remove the gate unless Nat. Grid responds otherwise.⁴

7) Next meeting date: 6/4 at 6:30 PM in Collins Room in-person / hybrid.

8) Henderson moves to adjourn, motion seconded by Damon. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Minutes based on recording, respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson

⁴ Did Rosa / Clancy mention a deadline?

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