

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2024, a public hybrid meeting in the Collins Room

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

- 6:30 PM, Rosa opens the meeting.

Present: (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Mike Parker, Mike Rosa

Absent: Katie Shubin, Maria Martin

Staff: (In person): Kat Malgieri, Jessie Hampson
(Remotely): Erika Jerram

Consultants: (Remotely): Peter Flinker, Eli Bloch, Shaine Meulmester

Public: Andrew Jennings, Brian King, Al Ramos

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- 1) Open mic: Al Ramos mentioned that the VVMP soccer field parking lot was neatly resurfaced with a level layer of stone dust. It was also striped, which after one rain event dissolved. It was subsequently restriped. Painting stone dust after each rainstorm seems a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars. **Rosa** will investigate it.
- 2) Consultant update: Eli screen-shared a 5/30 Memo outlining the roadmap / timeline for next steps, reviews and deadlines. After review and approval, the draft gets submitted. Then it usually gets *conditionally approved*. At this point the town is eligible to submit grants, but funding is not available until after final approval. **All** comments and edits must be in by 6/13. On 7/9 (Eli excused, Shaine and Peter can attend) the OSRPC can vote on the edited draft, or decide on another review round. Damon suggests the SRWA and OARS review the draft. The committee agrees to hold-off on spreading revision power to wide for now.
 - **All** can share cover photos for the OSRP cover page with Kat, and **Kat** will share with D&F. Committee agrees D&F can decide on cover layout.
 - Shaine and Henderson request committee input on whether to add Old MX Public Park river-access parcel formerly known as plate 59, parcel 103 should be included in the inventory. Committee decides yes, and **Kat /Erika** will contact assessor for clarification.
- 3) Bartlett moves to accept the 4/2/24 minutes as presented, seconded by Parker. Roll call **vote**: Unanimous yes or 6-0-0.
- 4) Henderson had forwarded PLPA (EEA)¹ MassMapper info to Jane Merrill, who extracted the Article 97 properties for an excel sheet, adding a Word document with a description of the field names, what each attribute means, and any relevant code information provided by the state. There are also some hidden columns that don't contain pertinent information. Spoiler alert: MassMapper is a great resource but should not be considered the final determination on whether a parcel is subject to article 97 or not. Henderson also apologizes to the members that the Article 97 zip file she shared could not be opened. She forwarded it again on 6/5, so the committee can eventually make recommendations to the Select Board as to adding more Art. 97 protections.

¹ Public Lands Preservation Act (Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs)

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Bartlett suggests all recreational fields should get that layer of protection. Ramos says Garden City used to have a public park, which is now a parking lot.

- 5) Passionate discussion on Disc Golf expansion: It appears that due diligence by volunteers to collaborate with conservation commission, ironically led to the disc golf expansion at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park being shot down. The conservation commission was encouraged by an SVT² letter, the interpretation of which may not have exactly reflected the SVT mission. The OSRPC supports the 18-holes disc golf effort, and it will remain in the plan. Rosa will find out who has care, custody and control of VVMP, and what is the basis for the brochure comment 'collaboratively managed by the conservation commission and SVT'.
- 6) Although sadly a day after the funeral for Sgt. Taylor, Tree-City Day tree give-away is definitely to be repeated, but with less variety, and emphasis on 'cute', small and native. Preferably combined with Clean Up Green Up.
- 7) Discussion on the boarded-up Billerica Depot (built in 1867, was renovated, expanded, and returned to station use in 1998). Parcels owned by MBTA and the Town. Parking revenue used to go to LRTA, who maintained the station until Covid (no parking revenue). Rosa will ask Clancy to reach out to the MBTA.
- 8) Old Business
 - Buckingham canoe access update: After hearing nothing for some time, Clancy called Nat. Grid and spoke with Tammy (miraculously back) and despite Tammy sputtering, said the Town will remove the gate on Monday 6/10, if Nat Grid does not do it this week.
- 9) Next meeting date: 7/9 at 6:30 PM in Collins Room in-person / hybrid.
- 10) Registering for the 10/26 Mass Trails Conference³ can be paid for by Planning Department.
- 11) Bartlett moves to adjourn, motion seconded by Damon. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson

² Sudbury Valley Trustees

³ Registration opens in September