

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2025, a public hybrid meeting in the Evelyn Haines Room

*** Action items and votes¹ below in bold face**

At 6:30 PM, Rosa opened the meeting. Salute the flag.

Present (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Marlies Henderson, Mike Parker, Grace Tucci, Darlene Torre

Audience: Andrew Jennings, and Tufts Students, Maddie, Juliette, Christian

Excused: Justin Damon

Staff (In person): Kat Malgieri

- 1) Open mic: Jennings mentions an ad in the Lowell Sun. It asks for public comment on a de minimis determination for the Yankee Doodle bike path on The Fields and Shady Hill conservation land. Rosa asks if the OSRPC may keep the clipping. Jennings hands it to Kat.
- 6) Rosa moves agenda item 6 up, so the Tufts students and OSRPC members can introduce each other.
- 2) Bartlett moves to accept the 1/7 minutes, seconded by Bowen, motion passes unanimously.
- 3) Rosa reads a draft Select Board Land Bank policy directive and made clear the Select Board had not reviewed it yet. Tucci asks if this will have an impact on the taxpayers. Rosa says it will not impact the levy.
- 4) Malgieri reports that there is no news on a Tree Warden / Parks appointee yet. Tucci asks if there is a cost associated with this. There is not; the former Parks Superintendent was the Tree Warden. He recently retired, and the OSRPC position has been vacant since it was established.

After a brief discussion members agree that Malgieri will order 200 Lilacs and Eastern Redbud seedlings as tree-giveaways through Massachusetts Tree Wardens (MTWFA)². She will locate funds. The Town Manager helped last year. Lilacs aren't native to North America, but Warren Manning (once a nationally acclaimed Landscape Designer headquartered in Billerica) used to

¹ In favor – opposed – abstain

² <https://www.masstreewardens.org/mtwfa-seedlings/>

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praise lilacs. Malgieri asks Rosa if the Select Board has decided on a Tree City event yet. It has not. Clean Up Green Up will be on Saturday, April 26.

- 6) Back to the Tufts Students: Discussion on objectives, deliverables and the timeline for their project this semester, which is a school requirement: One month of research, until the March 50% report. In April a 100% report, and in May a presentation: Identify parcels that *are* Article 97 protected, and parcels that *should be* Art 97 protected (the students create a list of criteria to determine which parcels are best for land-conservation).
- 7) Next meeting is March 4. Torre has a conflict and will be excused.
- 8) No other admin topics.
- 9) Henderson moves to adjourn. Bowen seconds.

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- Parker reported a Clean Up Green Up (CUGU) / Beautify Billerica gathering (clean-up & meeting). It looks like April 26 will be the date for CUGU. Christina McLaughlin writes the grant for supplies. Malgieri provided a DCR handout listing tree species. Arbor Day is 4/25. Seedling tree giveaways through Massachusetts Tree Wardens (MTWFA)³ could be on 4/27.
- Malgieri reports that the Spring Semester for the students of the UEP Field Project started; names have been picked. More news next month.
- Henderson will share live links on the Open Space Act and the December 2024 Article 97 webinar slides.
- Next meeting date: 2/4 at 6:30 PM in the Evelyn Haines Room.
- No other updates
- Bartlett moves to adjourn, Bowen seconds, (5-0-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.
- *Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson*

³ <https://www.masstreewardens.org/mtwfa-seedlings/>