

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2025, a public hybrid meeting in the Evelyn Haines Room

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

At 6:40 PM, Rosa opened the meeting and took attendance.

Present: John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Marlies Henderson, Mike Rosa
Virtual: Zoom Glitch (Chris Clark, Mike Parker tried but could not zoom)
Audience: Andrew Jennings
Absent: Maria Martin
Staff: Katherine Malgieri

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2025 AUG -6 A 11:40
TOWNSHIP CLERK
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- 1) Henderson nominates Rosa for Chair, adding that while she believes in rotating this office, and would have liked to be the chair, she defers to Rosa; because he aspires to it more.
Henderson moved to appoint Rosa for chairperson, Bartlett seconded, it passed **4-0-0**.
Bowen moved to appoint Bartlett for vice-chair, Henderson seconded, it passed **4-0-0**.
Bartlett moved to appoint Henderson secretary, Bowen seconded, it passed **4-0-0**.
- 2) Open mic: Andrew Jennings continued his topic on Access to Open Space, specifically an LRTA bus stop near Akeson Field. He reported that he contacted LRTA about this, and LRTA "is not comfortable with it".
- 3) Bartlett moves to accept the 4/1 minutes, seconded by Bowen, motion passes **4-0-0**.
- 4) Malgieri has been in contact with the State about updating the 7-year action plan to 10-year. Typically, more public input is required, but in this case our plan dates to 2024, thus the most recent public input is still fresh. Short range would remain 1-3 years; mid-range 4-6 and long-range 7-10.

Old Business:

- 5) Parks Appointee: David Brown presumably gets appointed by the **SB** on 7/14.
- 6) Arbor Day / Earth Day / CUGU update:
 - Henderson reminds committee members that Arbor Day Tree City initiative started with Jennings – At the 2/6/24 OSRPC meeting, Mr. Jennings quoted Jeff Speck who wrote Walkable City. It pertained to the need to plant shade trees, particularly along streets, and Mr. Jennings added the possibility to tap into Arbor Day sapling purchase. Joining Tree City requires a minimum investment of \$2 per capita on trees (and an appointed Tree Warden is a standard too). While she agrees that we must avoid planting near sewer or water lines or above-ground utility lines, the shade tree planting effort has shrunk into a shrubbery effort. Is there still a chance to include shade trees?

¹ In favor-opposed-abstain

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- **Henderson** will find out how much trash² Beautify Billerica collected in partnership with DPW at Clean Up Green Up (CUGU).
- Jennings alerts the OSRPC of funding opportunities for an Urban & Community Forestry Grant and the Cool Corridors Grant Program. He will forward the link to Rosa and Henderson.
- 7) Malgieri reports that Tufts UEP³ students completed their project.
 - **Malgieri** can edit the typo in the title and footer (Preserve instead of Perserve).
 - The report identifies 20 additional Art. 97 properties, and the report's suitability-for-protection grading component lists properties that would make great candidates for protection by naming / deeding them as Conservation Land in a Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article (after a SB vote). Deadline for preliminary warrant is August 18.
 - Henderson specifically names Grampy's Land (parcel 102-1-0) to include in that warrant article. Bartlett would like to preserve recreational use for a South Billerica playground. No vote was taken.
 - There was some discussion on Akeson often being misspelled/pronounced as Ackerson. Akeson⁴ is the proper way to spell the name for the soccer fields.
- 8) Other updates:
 - Malgieri reports that the Master Plan / Long Range Master Plan Oversight Committee convened on June 30⁵.
 - Bartlett announces the groundbreaking of the new Recreation Center on 8/11 at 3 PM (121 Lexington Rd).
 - Henderson announced YDBP phase 1 going out for bid this month or August. Bartlett states no member of the Recreation Commission wants to represent recreation on the Bike Path Committee. **Henderson** will send Bike Path committee formation documentation.
- 9) Next meeting date: August 5, at 6:30 PM:
 - to vote on the 10-year Plan re-submission and on
 - Art 97 / Conservation Land warrant articles prior to the 8/18 deadline.
- 10) Bowen moves to adjourn, Bartlett seconds. All in favor 4-0-0. Adjourned at 7:18 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson based on notes and recording provided by Malgieri

² 5.11 tons (email Steve Robertson to Fred Russell)

³ Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning

⁴ John Akeson of Woburn owned 80+ acres from 1939-1952. It looks like his wife donated 4.4 acres *in his memory*.

⁵ Agenda posted under general Town Clerk section. Most recent prior meeting was 4/2018, and prior to that: 12/2015.