



# Town of Tewksbury *MINUTES*

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Committee: Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023

Time: 6:00PM

Location: Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA Main Hall

Members present: Karyn Sliva, Tom Branchaud, Susan Young, Paige Impink, Ray Bowden, Bruce Shick, JW Buckley

Members absent: JoAnn Brace, Peter Chase

The meeting was called to order at: 6:09 PM

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions:

## Committee Business

The minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were not approved due to a lack of the presence of enough voting members who were at the May meeting. May minutes will be approved at the next committee meeting.

Open action items were reviewed. Good progress on open items – status captured in work planning spreadsheet. During the discussion regarding updating the list of parcels of interest, parcel 85-1 (plaza at 1777 Main St) which abuts Heath Brook conservation land was added to the list. The committee would like to monitor the parcel and plans for development.

The committee generated a list of open action for the town which the committee will follow. Tom plans to meet with Richard to review the items and track progress. We will maintain the list at each meeting.

## Stewardship

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft Stewardship Guidelines prepared by Peter. All agreed it's a great starting point. The committee generated the following list of inputs to consider:

- Stewards should have planned walkthroughs (frequency TBD – 2/year?) which should be reported – even if all is ok
- Define what maintenance activities the stewards can/should do (reference BCT guidelines provided by Bruce)
- How to interact with visitors who are not following rules (avoid confrontation, etc)
- Stewards should only be using simple tools (no power tools such as chain saw)
- Plants should not be removed (even invasives) or planted by stewards without input from the committee
- Some items require discussion with the committee for appropriate approach:
  - What should stewards do with trash? Pet waste left in bags?
  - What should be the trail (tread) width?
  - Should we blow trails clear?

- How to handle trees fallen across the trail? (Cut to width of path?)
- How often should stewards do a walkthrough/report?
- How often should the stewards do maintenance and trail clean up?

Paige agreed to gather feedback from the Beautification Committee for inputs/suggestions on approach to trail maintenance.

Ray reviewed the situation regarding trail maps available online for the hospital trails. No changes were decided on by the committee but Ray plans to have the hospital land maps added to the landing page for the Hospital Conservation site (not currently there).

Outreach

Bruce reviewed the status of the Summer 2023 Guided Walk program in collaboration with the library. 4 walks have been scheduled for this year’s program:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
July 8	Poplar Well Fields	Tom to host. Talk about the Sutton Brook Disposal site remediation and settlement money to be spent at PWF
Aug 12	Airfield?	
Sep 9	Rogers Park	Tom to host. Focus on families
Oct TBD	Chandler Well Fields	Show off new crossing at Kent St and discuss future investments in the site

All walks scheduled to start at 10am. Rain dates all on the following week. The new loudspeaker (purchased with grant money) to be used. Goal is to provide more information about each site during the walks.

Tom plans to attend the Community Roundtable on June 12 to represent OSRC.

Farmer’s Market dates are July 13 and August 17. Need OSRC members to support.

Public Safety Night is planned for Sept 17.

Bike Rodeo is scheduled for June 25.

Development

The committee discussed the status of the Hospital Land development activities that are covered in the 2017 Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding. No significant progress made on the plans. Bruce confirmed that the materials for items 1 (Maple St Crossing) and 2 (Wynn School Crossing) should be stored at the recreation center. He will reach out to the town contacts to confirm and the committee will discuss moving forward on those projects.

Old Business

Bruce confirmed the TMHS trail maintenance plan is in the hands of the TMHS groundskeepers. He has recommended the approach to trail improvements and upkeep. They need to determine what they will do in their department so we can then decide what we may do as a committee.

Bruce updated the committee on the progress of the pickle ball courts expected to be built near the LA baseball field at Livingston and East Streets. There's good alignment with the Baseball Board and they support the activity. The area is being staked out. Expect a town warrant will be generated for fall meeting for funding of the courts.

New Business

No new business discussed

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:50 PM

Next meeting:           Date: August 3, 2023  
                                  Time: 6:00PM  
                                  Place: Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Paige Impink, Clerk

Minutes approved by Committee on: August 3, 2023

Documents: Documents shared can be viewed in the Office of Community Development.