



Town of Tewksbury *MINUTES*

Committee: Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Time: 6:00PM

Location: Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA -First Floor

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

Members absent: JW Buckley, Peter Chase

Guest: Chris Mullins

The meeting was called to order at: 6:02 PM

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions:

Committee Business

The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved with a date correction for a committee event.

Outreach

The committee discussed the Public Safety event, formerly National Night Out, on Sunday, September 17. Attendance was light. Committee will evaluate future participation. Members Tom and Susan will attend the New Resident Reception on October 23 at the senior center. Members opted to skip Safe Halloween on October 29.

The last guided walk was at CWF. People were excited for the new bridge. Discussed future collaboration with the library and the organization of “group walks” which would be for exercise and enjoyment vs. narration.

The Winter Tree Walk email has been sent and Paige reported 8 groups already signed up. Discussion of including the school PACs and groups and businesses was considered. JoAnn will join with the GSA group from Shaw Tech and Paige will reach out to the Tewksbury schools PACS and clubs.

Clean up day in partnership with Beautification was quiet due to unknown factors. Bruce led the International Club at the Pines Cemetery and removed 9 truckloads of material. A joint mini clean up of the new parcel 2347 Main Street will be planned with Beaut Comm for early November.

Stewardship

The committee discussed installation of small kiosks. Ray has been holding 3 in his shed. After discussion, settled on one at Poplar Wells, one at Easement, and one at CWF at Kevin Street. Ray

made the motion which was approved. Future consideration for one at High School trail and Foster Park. A 4x4 post will be installed at Bligh Street. Bruce would like to remove the two at Livingston for better use elsewhere (kiosks were installed by Girl Scout for badge but serve no function). Tom will clear this with Town Manager. Paige will send Tom kiosk info for Google drive and will get it printed. Tom will create a map for Easement.

Bruce visited CWF with conservation agent Joe Fontaine. Fontaine felt that the Con Comm would approve three small non-invasive boardwalks to cover muddy areas on either end of the new bridge, one is on the Kevin Street side and two are near the existing short boardwalks on the trail to the sand piles. Fontaine also agreed on the need to repair the twisted 205-foot boardwalk near the Euclid Street entrance. He requested simple drawings to be presented to the Con Comm. Bruce will pursue with the architect hired by the town manager and see about engaging the contractor that built the recent CWF boardwalk/bridge. Fontaine reviewed the downstream side of the new bridge where the DPW felled a few big dead trees next to where the bridge was to be built. He felt that opening up the stream where the trees were blocking it was appropriate. Bruce will ask the SRWA if they can do the work since they clear the Shawsheen on a regular basis.

Committee discussed the vandalism at Rogers Park. The police are aware and will investigate. The sign will be replaced. Members were pleased with the paint removal and restoration at Rogers by the facilities group.

Development

Kent Street crossing is complete. The committee would like to extend thanks to abutter Pat Taylor for allowing the crew to cross their land, saving considerable time and money. Tom will send an official thank you on town letterhead.

Bruce reported the hospital reapproved 2 small bridges, a 16 ft. and an 8 ft. He will meet with the architect and also conservation agent to be sure no further approvals are needed. Bruce has the materials and drawings.

New Business

Chris Mullins, former chair of OSRC, presented information about MassDOT Bicycle Facility Inventory for a shared use path. Chris, through his work, learned that Tewksbury is on Mass DOT's radar for path connectivity. Further, Chris learned that MassDOT tried to reach out to the town about the PanAm railway and it appears the town did not act on this. Chris expressed frustration that resident interest in the path is not being shared by administration. Susan asked what can we do. Tom asked if there was a citizen group leading the charge and also wanted to check the OSRC plan for rail trail references/purview.

Resident Kate Bugda Gwilt spoke and said the connectivity to the city would be of great interest to residents.

Old Business

Meeting was adjourned at: 7:45 PM

Next meeting: Date:
 Time: 6:00PM
 Place: Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Paige Impink, Clerk

Minutes approved by Committee on: November 9, 2023

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