

Approved @  
4/4/23

# Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

March 7, a duly scheduled and posted in person meeting

\* Action items below in bold face

RECEIVED

- 6:30 PM, Rosa opens meeting. A quorum is present despite a snafu relative to Damon's appointment; it will be addressed shortly. In the meantime, Damon will attend as public audience.

2023 APR -6 A 9:18

TOWN CLERK  
BILLERICA

Present: Jack Bowen, Marlies Henderson, Maria Martin, Michael Parker, Michael Rosa  
 Staff: (Ex Officio) Kat Malgieri, Senior Planner arrived at 7 PM  
 Excused: John Bartlett, Katie Shubin  
 Audience: Justin Damon, Andrew Jennings

- #1 Open mic: No public comments.
- #2 Henderson moved to approve the January 17 minutes, Parker seconded. Motion passed: 5-0-0<sup>1</sup>
- #3/4 Malgieri has worked with an Arlington RFP / scope-of-services, because no prior Billerica RFP could be found. She also had difficulty getting Departmental updates on the goals & objectives. She provides attendees with a Goals and Implementation Audit Spreadsheet handout with **homework for all**: Provide updates on the spreadsheet in the blank column(s). **Henderson** will share email addresses with Malgieri, so **Malgieri** can share the digital spreadsheet with OSRPC members. Malgieri found out that the current plan expires *seven years after the 2016 submission date* (not the 2018 approval date), so we need to work fast. **Henderson** will contact Horsley Witten to ask for RFP.
- #5 With NMCOG RTP (Regional Transportation Plan) *Vision 2050* in mind (draft appears as soon as April), Jennings reminds the board of the 3/22 NMCOG Vision 2050 hearing, and gives an update on his attempts to reach MBTA Billerica Branch ownership (north of Heritage Rd). Bowen asks if it is part of the current Yankee Doodle proposal (not yet), and how it connects to the current Yankee Doodle proposal (from the High School, to Good Street, across Boston Rd to Heritage Rd – part of the current Boston Rd project).  
 Jennings also reports on the informal Active Transportation group and its partnership with Middlesex Canal Association and Commission (different entities but on the same page). The MCC is changing leadership, activating historic Middlesex Canal advocacy. For eligibility for Federal funding: At the 3/22 next Vision 2050 meeting, 2018 OSRP goals & objectives re. Heritage Park should be emphasized / expressed, as well as connectivity with Chelmsford BFRT and Concord River Greenway aka Bay Circuit along sections of the Middlesex Canal, and there is involvement with the Chelmsford Riverneck Rd connection to the BFRT. The Malgieri handout includes a MassDOT Priority Trails Network image. To be continued next meeting (4/4).
- #6 Board discussion on updates (ongoing) in Town inventory / Town GIS layers. Rosa **checked with Clancy on** RR River Street to Cabot purchase. Clancy has difficulty getting through to CSX. He left a voicemail with Diane LeRogue. To be continued next meeting (4/4).

<sup>1</sup> In favor - opposed - abstention

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- #7 Tony McIntosh, Superintendent of Shawsheen Tech called Rosa. Legal Counsel deems a boat launch a liability for the school, and a logistical issue for its facility management (gate locked on weekends. The Shawsheen Tech river access option seems dead in the water.
- #8 Henderson emailed Clancy to follow up on the Buckingham Shawsheen access, cc'ing conservation, and other departments. Town Parks & Trees went over to re-install the kiosk, which brought out an upset neighbor, who reminded Mike Haines that re-instating river access should involve the Conservation Commission. The board appreciates Clancy's offer to arrange this meeting. Henderson adds that SRWA would offer support (but would not initiate this; it should be a Billerica initiative). 2018 OSRP reports "lack of river access: Signage and published list" (p. 321 priority).
- #9 Henderson reports how a Kohlrausch 'upgrade' was withdrawn after a public hearing; the Recreation Department identified a need (there was very little active recreation). However, the neighborhood appreciates the park very much for passive recreation, and the Town honored that by immediately withdrawing the request for CPA funding for the design process.
- #10 Justin read a proposal for an added Tree section to the OSRP.
- #11 Brief discussion on preliminary site analysis for the Intergenerational Center for Recreation and COA.
- #11b Admin: Clancy has gone out to the Buckingham public parcel. He tasked BPD to educate neighbors on their encroachment. Henderson retrieved the kiosk. She will contact Clancy Main to verify this, with cc to BCC and Highway Department, to re-install the kiosk and restore access path.
- #12 Next meeting date is April 4.
- 7:30 PM, meeting adjourned (motion by Parker, seconded by Bowen).

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson*