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1/3/2007 Minutes

MEETING MINUTES - Open Space Committee

Meeting Date: January 3, 2007

Present: Ann LeRoy, Chair; David White, Conservation Commission; Leslie Mayer, Parks & Recreation Commission; Joey Glushko, Planning Department; Elizabeth Karpati, 20/20; Patsy Kraemer, resident; Michele Hassler, Cemetery Commission; Lisa Decker, Arlington Redevelopment Board

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, DPW; Adam Pachter, resident

General

- The December 6 meeting minutes were approved as unanimously amended.
- Ralph Willmer's email address is: rwillmer@vhb.com.
- The next Land Trust Annual Meeting will be Monday, January, 22.
- It was unanimously agreed that the next OSC Meeting will be January 31.

Census

- The census mailing is ready to be sent (should be mailed Friday, January 5). Leslie presented the final census for review, she anticipates that it will arrive to residents within 1 ½ weeks. We discussed the new process and form/survey. It is now more restrictive because it need to be scanned rather than evaluated by hand. There will be a small article in the Advocate next Thursday to remind residents to send it in.

Friends of Parks Meeting

- Park Maintenance Concerns: We reviewed Ann's notes from the November 6 meeting at the Friends of Parks Meeting. Maintenance and controlling invasive plants was one of the Friends' major concerns. The Open Space Committee would like Leslie's list of invasive plants and recommended methods of control. Leslie will review Ann's notes and respond to Ann with her comments.
- Contact Information: The other major concern was how and who to contact with issues as they occur. There is currently inconsistent signage throughout the parks and playgrounds.

Open Space Plan

- Ralph Willmer would like the OSC to contribute as much as we can to Section 2 (Accomplishments) of the Open Space Plan for the next meeting.
- The OSC began to discuss the status of various open spaces as listed below:
 1. Elizabeth Island – emphasize importance
 2. Knowles Farm – remove from list
 3. Poet's Corner – nothing much has happened
 4. Mughar – nothing much has happened recently
 5. Symmes – add to accomplishments

6. Archdiocese land – remains of historic ice house, may add to the list
7. Great Meadows – add to accomplishments
8. Reservoir (including land beyond Busa Farm) – add to accomplishments
9. Robbins Farm – add to accomplishments

· Community Preservation Act – The OSC agreed to keep as a potential funding source and to look for alternative funding sources for improvements

· Projects paid through Capital Improvements – Leslie will confirm which projects will be paid for through Capital Improvements for the next 5 years. Under consideration are Greeley, Summer Street, Wellington and Menotomy.

· Integrating Zoning – We discussed how zoning could be integrated into the Open Space Plan and how zoning can accomplish open space goals.

· Updating Managing Plans – Ann will send all members the appropriate word document to update for the next meeting.

Alewife Brook Reservation Bike Path

· OSC Support for Path – Joey wondered if the OSC would write a letter in support of the bike path. The committee agreed that we needed more information about the path before endorsing the design. Lisa will contact Clarissa Rowe about the possibility of presenting the plan to the committee and will get a copy of the plans for the next meeting. Either David or Joey will try to schedule a representative from the Bicycle Committee to give the OSC an overview of the project.