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November 2007 Minutes

Minutes of the Arlington Open Space Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7 November 2007; Minutes approved 12 December 2007

2nd Floor Conference room

Present: Patsy Kraemer, Elizabeth Karpati, David White, Leslie Mayer, Michelle Hassler, Lisa Decker and Jane Auger.

The meeting was called to order by David White at 7:40pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 10/3/07 were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) **Open Space Plan:** The group discussed the number of documents to be printed. It was felt that full copies should be provided to OSC members, as well as to the Selectmen, pertinent Town Departments and Committees, and the Library. Abridged editions could be provided to other parties such as Town Meeting. The group feels the final decision should include input from Ann LeRoyer and Joey Glushko, who were not at this meeting.

ACTION: Tabled until December meeting

2) **Review of Action Items in Plan:** Several goals set forth in the plan have a relatively short time-line. The group discussed setting up meetings with the other affected groups to begin implementing these goals. Discussion was held regarding developing a plan for the linear park along Mill Brook.

ACTION: Set up meetings, possibly as early as December or January, with the Arlington Land Trust to discuss the open space inventory process, and with the Disability Committee to discuss review of accessibility issues. Assemble a list of groups affected by the potential linear park to begin brainstorming.

3) **Review and Update Management Plans:** Some projects are underway, for example, tree re-planting at the Reservoir. Plans should be updated to reflect current status, and perhaps some additional plans created for areas that don't have any.

ACTION: On-going review

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Invasive Species Education:** Elizabeth Karpati suggested an outreach program to inform residents about controlling invasive species. A sub-committee was formed to explore the idea, which could involve direct outreach with handouts, a page on the Town website, Town Day displays, and school programs. The sub-committee so far consists of Patsy, David, Elizabeth and Jane.

2) **Buzzell Field:** Work has restarted, with on-going soil testing and trash removal.

3) **Green Dog:** Leslie reported on the initial town-wide informational meeting about the proposed Green Dog pilot program. Neighborhood-specific meetings begin 11/8/07.

4) **Flood Plain Map:** David reported that the FEMA flood maps have been updated in near final form, with some changes that may increase the flood plain areas and necessitate more residents requiring flood insurance. The Town is hiring an engineering firm to review the results.

5) **Cemetery Expansion:** The Expansion Committee is looking at some use of Cooke's Hollow for cremains. Note that the land is

officially designated as Conservation land and managed by the ConCom. The cemetery plot buy-back program was successful, resulting in acquisition of 42 spaces.

6) **On-going review of OSC accomplishments:** Elizabeth suggested that Committee members try to keep an on-going file of accomplishments over the next 5 years to facilitate creation of the next 5 year plan in 2012.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 5th, 2007.

Submitted by Jane Auger.