



Open Space Committee
Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room
Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:30pm

Present: David White, Ann LeRoy, Brian Kelder, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Kelsey Cowen, John Pickle, Wendy Richter

Absent: Jane Auger, Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictus

Minutes: The minutes of the June 28, 2018 meeting were accepted with revisions and corrections.

Note: On July 26th less than a quorum of OSC members met to work on maps and prep for Town Day booth. There was no meeting in August.

New member: Environmental Planner Emily Sullivan, liaison from the Planning Department, will join the OSC, replacing Nat Strosberg.

Take-A-Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces: Discussion of walking maps (East Arlington and the first section of the Heights) that were printed for Town Day. Graphic suggestions: use both dashed and solid lines with fewer colors that read better on the printed maps and modify graphics so that Picture Posts are more legible. Next area to develop routes: Morningside. Adam Kurowski, of Town GIS department was instrumental in getting the printed maps formatted and incorporated last minute adjustments. Elizabeth printed the maps for Town Day.

Town Day Recap: Booth attendants: David, Ann, John, Wendy and Elisabeth, Brian, Jane
Maps of town open spaces and Mill Brook Corridor on display, walking route maps handed out, some of the topics mentioned by visitors were: Mugar parcel, green space in front of AHS, less apparent open space at minimal setbacks in new residential development, Wellington Park project.
Arlington resident Jim Vellenga is walking all roads in town. He has a FB page to document his routes.
Suggestion to invite him to the OSC next map making discussion.

Committee Budget: Committee members reimbursed Elizabeth for printing costs of Town Day maps. As the OSC does not have a budget, everyone chipped in \$5. (Wendy & Kelsey owe \$5 to Ann and David who paid \$10 each.) Ann will ask Planning Dept., and/or Town Manager about submission requirements for a committee budget for next year. The committee will have more expenses related to the production of the 2022 Open Space Plan. Also, there is an annual cost for a Town Day booth.

Communications: Waiting for more Open Space info to be put up on town website.
Updated photos of renovated Magnolia Park & Robbins Farm are needed for the website. Ann will ask Adam K. about the process to update "Experiencing Arlington" (created by David Fields) on the website. Suggestion: add aerial photos, if available.

Picture Post: The citizen science photography project will continue with the data; storage host is planning to move from UNH to U of Oklahoma. Post caps continue to be manufactured in New Hampshire.

Park Updates:

Robbins Farm Park is back in use. Some work on the garden and accessibility improvements still to be completed. Spy Pond Fund Day was in September including Arlington Land Trust bringing people to Elizabeth Island.

Reservoir Master Plan is on the website, includes both CPA and Capital funding. First Phase of the project includes the pumping house and a pilot, permeable surface, trail improvement. Many beach area improvements are needed. Recreation has higher priority than OS/ Environmental issue because the Rec department initiated the grant funding. OSC to highlight & support environmental issues in the Reservoir Plan that need to be addressed. Hardy School playground improvements are ongoing.

Con Com projects:

Spy Pond - erosion control project moving along. (CPA funding.)

Mystic River - state funded remediation from past toxic spill.

CPA: Deadline for CPA funding for 2019 is in January.

Other News:

AHS – discussion of current Schematic Plan with a loss of open space in front of high school.

Educational Garden tours Sat. 9/29/18 11-2 .Various sites, Pumping Station off Brattle St. (other locations?)

Old Schwamb Mill Exhibit “A Brook Runs through It: Arlington's Mill Brook Legacy.” Opening Sat 9/29/18, 3-5pm. Exhibit runs through March 2019.

Bike Path 25th Anniversary celebration continues w/ events on Sat. 9/29/18

Next meeting: October 25

Minutes submitted by Wendy Richter

2018 Meeting Dates: Oct 25, Nov 15, Dec 13

2019 Meeting Dates: Jan. 24, Feb. 28