



Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: 1st floor meeting room, Town Hall Annex.

Minutes

Attendance: Ann LeRoy, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, John Pickle, Wendy Richter, Emily Sullivan.

Members Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis, David White.

1. Minutes
 - a. The Minutes from October 24, 2019 were reviewed. Ann LeRoy agreed to make agreed-upon minor revisions before posting. Minutes were accepted.
2. OSC Administration/Communications
 - a. No responses have come in yet from the posted call for New OSC Members on the Town website. Emily Sullivan will reach out to someone who might be interested. Others on the Committee were encouraged to do the same.
 - b. Emily Sullivan spoke with Adam Kurowski about redirecting the QR code on the Take A Walk walking route maps to the Neighborhood Maps page on the website.
 - c. Ann LeRoy and Brian Kelder distributed their first pass at edits for text describing the areas covered in the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map. Further reviews of photos and text were assigned as follows: Menotomy Rocks Park – John Pickle, Wellington Park – Emily Sullivan, Robbins Farm Park – Elisabeth Carr-Jones.
 - d. Wendy Richter contacted Jane Auger and has since assumed the role of Administrator of the OSC facebook account. The account has 65 friends. Wendy will begin posting on the page, beginning with the New Members notice, to generate more interest.
3. Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces
 - a. Publicity for the walking maps is planned for the spring, after the QR codes have been redirected.
4. Picture Post
 - a. John Pickle will construct caps for the new posts over the winter. In spring, new Picture Posts will be more closely considered at Spy Pond Park, Wellington Park and along the Mill Brook,

Robbins Farm Garden and Magnolia Community Gardens. Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the corner fence post is in place at Robbins Farm Garden.

5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)
 - a. Ann LeRoy has prepared the application, including comments from Committee members, for FY2021 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Emily Sullivan agreed to reformat the application's timeline, collate the materials and submit the package for the Committee. Letters of Support for the proposal were assigned as follows: Arlington Departments of Planning & Community Development, Recreation and Health & Human Services and Conservation Commission – Emily Sullivan, Arlington Redevelopment Board – Wendy Richter, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park – John Pickle, Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows – David White, Envision Arlington – Elisabeth Carr-Jones. Emily Sullivan agreed to distribute a template letter to the Committee members. The final application package is due December 9th.
6. Updates on CPA projects
 - a. Emily Sullivan met with Town Officials and Veterans groups to discuss the feasibility of relocating the Veterans Memorial from its location near the Central Fire Station to Cooke's Hollow. The CPA planning study proposal would involve a site survey and public engagement process to begin in the fall of 2020. Emily asked if the Committee would write a letter of support for the proposal. Several Committee members commented on areas of concern for the project, including accessibility, parking, accommodating parade crowds, neighborhood concerns, historical appropriateness and relative civic prominence. Though the Committee was not ready to support the relocation, there was no objection to the feasibility study and public process. Emily agreed to draft a letter for the Committee's consideration.
 - b. Emily reported that the Department of Planning & Community Development, the Town's Transportation Planner and the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee are anticipating a CPA application for the Minuteman Bikeway.
7. Other News and Reports
 - a. The Municipal Vulnerability Grant project at Wellington Park will be unveiled in the spring.
 - b. The Mugar Zoning Board of Appeals hearing has been postponed until December 10th while negotiations continue.
 - c. The Envision Arlington survey questions have been revised, based on feedback from the October Committee meeting. Emily Sullivan agreed to bring the questions to the December meeting for final review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.
Submitted by Elisabeth Carr-Jones