

Open Space Committee Minutes

Date: March 30, 2023

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wendy Richter, David Morgan, Ann LeRoy, David White, Emily Nink, Eliza Hatch, Brian McBride

Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa Debenedictis

Public Attending: Beth Melofchick, Ellen Cohen

Agenda

1. OSC Administration

- Approval of Feb 23rd Minutes. David White - edit Con Comm section. A unanimous vote passed approving February 23, 2023 minutes
- Organizational Liaison Assignments
 - Hills Hill Design Committee - OSC agreed to appoint Brian McBride as representative
 - Envision Arlington - Brian McBride has offered to represent OSC on Envision Arlington with support from Elisabeth.
 - Nelson Mui will replaced Teresa as our DPW contact. David proposed Nelson attend OSC quarterly.
- Remote Meetings - Will continue for 2 more years

2. Open Space Budget Update

- The 2023/24 Budget will be \$2000 for the coming year, an increase over prior years. Expected spending will be for printing the OSC plan and efforts to increase public engagement on Open Space issues.
- The Finance Committee has asked for details on proposed and actual spending. David Morgan will manage this.
- The 2024/25 Budget proposal will be due this October.

3. Implementation of Open Space Plan

- Discussed plans to kick off the Open Space Plan at Eco-Week, with OS events on Sunday April 30 2-4pm. (Rain date the following weekend on May 7th). David

Morgan will lead a tour of No Name Book, and The Hidden Orchard. Elisabeth Carr-Jones will connect w Charlotte Milan of Eco Fest to finalize details of these events. The committee did not see a good opportunity for a booth or handouts at Eco-Fest.

- Discussed plans to launch the OS Plan to each key Town Board/Committee. This would include a visit each key department with new OS Plan and a review of that department's goals. It's expected there would be discussion of goals and timelines.
- Spring Fling – This fair will be held in Arlington Heights on June 10, 2-5. It is a possible opportunity to share the OS plan as well. More information will be available soon.

4. CPA Project Updates

- April - Introduce 2023/24 projects to public as discussed above

5. Liaison Updates

- Planning Dept - David Morgan- ARB is proposing an open space requirements change in an upcoming warrant article. Need to find out details.
- Park and Rec - no update.
- Conservation Commission - New Conservation Commission Wetlands Regulations were approved by that committee.
- Envision Arlington Survey – The survey has closed with about 2000 replies. We expect a survey report at Town Meeting
- Arlington Redevelopment Board - Wendy Richter presented the OS Plan to ARB to positive response. See the note above regarding ARB's proposal to change open space requirements.
- Tree Committee – The committee felt we need a better contact with Susan Stamps, perhaps a check-in prior to each OS meeting. Continue this discussion next month.

6. Open Space Plan Tracking

- Artificial Turf Fields - Noted there is an upcoming Forum on May 2nd 7pm at Town Hall sponsored jointly by Con Com and Park and Rec Commission.
 - Attendee Beth Melofchik spoke to advocate support for Article 12, a pause in the use of artificial turf for 2 years. Beth noted seminars on April 13 and April 16 regarding PFAS for those interested.
- CPA 2023

- Cookes' Hollow - on schedule. Next step is to form a steering committee
- Mt Gilboa - Bids for a site assessment and public engagement have been extended until April 3rd
- Hurd Field - Construction continues
- Robbins Farm - Public meetings continue, and are now at the stage of reviewing of a draft Design
- CPA 24
 - CPA applications have been approved and will be submitted to Town Meeting
- 40 B Projects
 - Mugar Wetlands Project - no update
 - 1025 MA Ave - ZBA and Con Com engaged with this project and are working to align approach. Site walk completed this week. Guest Ellen Cohen noted the discover of discard tires at the site which will be remedied.
- Community Science (Picture Posts) - Univ of OK had a catastrophic site failure. Most picture data was lost. OSC will consider whether to investigate other sites or terminate this project.
- Urban Ecology Framework - Asking David M to present to the Open Space Committee. Possibly May.

7. Topics for Next Meeting

- Public Comments - how to facilitate comments during OSC meetings
- MBTA Communities Act - Density and Open Space balance

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm