



Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: February 22, 2024.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

Present: Wendy Richter, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ann LeRoyer, with Eliza Hatch and David White arriving later to the meeting.

Guest: Anne Ehlert.

Absent: Brian McBride, David Morgan, Shirley Canniff, Brian Kelder, Nelson Mui.

Minutes.

1. Administrative.

- a. Approval of January meeting (postponed to February 6) minutes.
Review of February 6 Meeting Minutes postponed due lack of quorum.
- b. Budget discussion for Fiscal Years 24-25.
In response to the Finance Committee's requirement for a FY25 budget, the Committee reviewed the FY24 funding request prepared by D. Morgan and agreed to request funding of \$1,000 for expected ongoing expenses. W. Richter and E. Carr-Jones will send the request by February 26 deadline.
- c. Arrival of David Morgan's baby, Calder.
It was announced that Calder arrived on January 21. The Committee sends best wishes to the entire family!

2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Implementation.

- a. OSRP Objectives – Implementation.
D. White and B. McBride will complete refinements to the OSRP goals spreadsheet and post it on the Committee's Google Docs. All volunteer Committee members will check in with their subcommittee partners before the March meeting to begin quarterly update reporting on progress toward the four OSRP goals.
- b. On-going Projects.
EcoFest is scheduled to run from Saturday, April 20 to Sunday, May 12. The Committee hopes to participate with several events.
 - Outreach table at the Resource and Connections Fair at the High School (date TBD), coordinated by A. LeRoyer.
 - Urban Ecology Framework workshop at the Community Center on Sunday, April 21, coordinated by D. Morgan and E. Carr-Jones.



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- Event at the Arlington Orchard on Saturday, April 27, coordinated by W. Richter.
- Family-Friendly Bird Watching walk at the Res on May 4 or 5, coordinated by A. LeRoy and E. Hatch.
- Open House at Robbins Farm Garden (date TBD), coordinated by E. Carr-Jones.

The Committee will continue to coordinate with the EcoFest committee to finalize the programs.

- c. CPA projects (moved to Updates section)
These projects were discussed in later in the agenda.
- d. Other Items.
The Committee was introduced to the Recreation Department's park permitting proposal for private preschools to use public playgrounds. E. Hatch was most familiar with the proposal, and will supply more information for the March meeting.

3. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.
Committee members noted the Open Space Rezoning Warrant Article does not appear on this Town Meeting's Warrant.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission.
S. Canniff reported prior to the meeting that the Robbins Farm Park slides are on route, and the playground could reopen in mid-July, a Hill's Hill public meeting has been scheduled for March 26, and the playground plans for Parallel and Menotomy Rocks Parks are moving along nicely.
- c. Conservation Commission.
The Commission continues to evaluate peer review studies of stormwater and groundwater data collection for Thorndike Place (Mugar property), with their next meeting scheduled for March 7 focusing on site habitats.
- d. Department of Public Works.
No updates.
- e. Envision Arlington.
No updates.
- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.



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The Board will begin holding public hearings for zoning Warrant Articles on Monday, February 26.

g. No other Committee updates.

4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking).

a. Town Meeting articles for 2024.

The Shaded Parking Lots Warrant Article will be reviewed by the Redevelopment Board on March 4.

b. Artificial Turf (Study Committee).

It was reported that the Study Committee is diligently working to file their report to Town Meeting on schedule, but that a Warrant Article has been filed to extend their time to complete the work.

c. CPA FY23 (Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park).

The Mt. Gilboa online survey remains open to gather public comment.

d. CPA FY24 (Hill's Hill, Invasives, Mill Brook, No Name Brook, Pond Lane).

The consultant (Hatch) was on site two weeks ago with Conservation Commission members to begin their work on the Mill Brook and No Name Brook projects.

It was reported that there has been expanded unsanctioned mountain biking activity and erosion at the Hill's Hill site.

e. CPA FY 25 (Public Land Management Plan, McClennen Park ponds, Menotomy Rocks playground, Crosby Park courts, Foot of the Rocks)
The Community Preservation Act Committee is currently considering funding requests for the following FY25 open space projects.

- Menotomy Rocks Park playground and Crosby Park courts from the Park and Recreation Commission.
- Minuteman Bikeway at Ed Burns Arena, McClennen Park Retention Ponds, and the Public Land Management Plan Addendum from the Department of Planning and Community Development.
- The Foot of the Rocks park.

f. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects (Mugar, 1021 Mass Ave, Mirak).

It was reported that construction on the Mirak site (The Artemis) is progressing with questionable environmental monitoring for Mill Brook. A. LeRoyer will contact the Conservation Commission about the concern.



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Erosion barriers have been placed at the portion of the property nearest the Mill Brook at 1021-1025 Mass Ave. to contain contaminants in preparation for construction. Buildings have been removed and tree removal is in process.

g. Other Items.

Two pieces of legislation have recently moved out of committee at the Massachusetts State House with favorable reports: Municipal Reforestation, and Combined Sewage Overflows. The Committee will consider letters of support for these bills at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

2024 Meetings (4th Thursdays except Nov. and Dec.): Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 14, Dec12.