



Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

Present: Wendy Richter, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ann LeRoyer, David White, Brian McBride, David Morgan, Brian Kelder.

Absent: Eliza Hatch, Shirley Canniff, Nelson Mui.

Minutes

1. Administrative.

- a. Minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting were approved.
- b. Budget: Members discussed using some of the remaining funds in the FY24 budget to print 10 copies of the Sustainable Landscape Handbook for placement in Town libraries and for committee use. E. Carr-Jones made such a motion, W. Richter seconded it, and all members present voted in favor. David M. will advise on the current budget balance.
- c. Other Items: The Committee will discuss in-person meetings for the fall.

2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Items.

- a. OSRP Implementation.
Members reported on their reviews of the four OSRP Goals. B. McBride and B. Kelder (Goal 1) had filled in comments for each of the line items on the Google Docs file established for this tracking purpose. The discussion led to various questions about use of the shared document, adding columns for each future year, and noting redundancies among some of the objectives. W. Richter offered to make a PDF of the file on a regular basis to keep track of changes and create an archive of accomplishments. Other members reported orally on their subgroup meetings and will enter comments into the file later. (Goal 2 – E. Carr-Jones and S. Canniff; Goal 3 – W. Richter and E. Hatch; Goal 4 – A. LeRoyer and D. White).
- b. On-going projects.
The Committee's 2024 EcoFest (April 20 – May 11) events have begun. The Urban Ecology Framework Workshop on Sunday, April 21 in the Community Center drew more than 30 people and was well received (Thanks, David Morgan!). The event was taped and will be made available on the OSC web page.



Arlington Open Space Committee

W. Richter and B. McBride plan to staff a table at the Resource and Community Connections Fair on Sunday, April 28, 12 to 2pm at Arlington High School.

Birding Walk at the Reservoir is set for Saturday, May 4, 8:30 to 10:00am.

E. Carr-Jones is arranging a Robbins Farm Community Garden tour on Saturday, May 11.

The Arlington Orchard event is postponed until June 8 to allow more time for planning and coordination with potential artists and Orchard sponsors.

Ecology Summit and Outdoor Programs will be planned for the fall as a follow-up to the Urban Ecology Framework. E. Carr-Jones will contact Bruce Moulton of Sustainable Arlington to coordinate.

- c. Letters of support on various initiatives.
MA Reforestation Legislation – D. Morgan drafted a letter and will work with Town Manager on distribution.

CSO Issue/Alewife Brook – David W. will follow up since he is active with that initiative.

Playground usage fee – no update was available.

- d. Other Items. No other items were raised.

3. Updates from Liaisons.

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.
D. Morgan reported briefly on the zoning articles for Town Meeting, noting in particular support for the recommended change to the Inland Wetland District. He said that more than 30 applications were received for the Arlington Master Planning Update (AMPup) process, and 10-12 people will be selected for the Advisory Committee.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission.
E. Carr-Jones reported that the Parallel Park project is being well received and has gotten state support via Rep. Sean Garballey. Menotomy Rocks Park and Robbins Farm Park playgrounds remain in stages of development and construction.
- c. Conservation Commission. No update.



Arlington Open Space Committee

- d. Department of Public Works. No update.
- e. Envision Arlington. No update.
- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.
W. Richter commented on some of the zoning articles that address setbacks and stepbacks, with concern for potential impacts on open spaces. E. Carr-Jones commented that the proposed article to require shade trees in certain parking lots was approved by the ARB.
- g. Other Committees. No update.

4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking)

- a. Town Meeting articles of interest for 2024: Inland Wetland District (Art. 28), Reduced Height Buffers (Art. 29), Shaded Parking Lots (Art. 30), Step Backs and Setbacks (Art. 33). See previous sections 3.a and 3.f.
- b. Artificial Turf Report (Study Committee).
The Committee intends to deliver a report to Town Meeting on schedule and other public meetings will follow.
- c. CPA FY23 updates (Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park).
Mt. Gilboa dialog continues with concerns about the disposition of the house. The Town is awaiting the consulting engineer's report to be presented to the Conservation Commission. Public meetings are expected in early summer.
- d. CPA FY24 updates (Hill's Hill, Mill Brook, Pond Lane, Foot of the Rocks, Invasives).
The Hill's Hill mountain biking design was presented to the public in March and will be submitted to the CPA committee for final approval.

The Mill Brook /No Name Brook project has started with Hatch doing preliminary work. Weston and Sampson has done a survey of No Name Brook and added it into its hydrological models so work on both brooks can be better coordinated.

The Pond Lane project is on hold for now.

The Foot of the Rocks design is completed and CPA has recommended more funding for FY 2025.



Arlington Open Space Committee

The Townwide Invasives Survey report has been completed and will be integrated into the Town's new ArcGIS mapping program.

- e. CPA FY25 update (Public Land Management Plan revision, McClennen Park ponds, Menotomy Rocks playground, Crosby courts study, Bikeway/Ryder St. connection).
The CPA Committee has recommended funding for all of these projects.
- f. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects.
Updates were provided on Thorndike Place, 1021 Mass Ave, and Mirak.
- g. Other Items.
Special Town Meeting on May 8 has an article about the disposition of Town-owned land near the Ottoson Middle School. D. Morgan explained it is a small parcel on Acton Street.

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