



Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: February 6, 2024.

(make-up meeting due to technical problems on the original monthly meeting date of January 25, 2024).

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

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

Absent: David Morgan, Shirley Canniff, Brian Kelder, Eliza Hatch.

Minutes.

1. Administrative.

a. Minutes of November 9, 2023 and December 7, 2023 were approved.

b. Other Items.

The 2024 meeting schedule has been posted on the Town website and the 2023 Annual Report was submitted on January 8, 2024.

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

a. OSRP Objectives – Implementation.

Long discussion of how to track and document projects and objectives itemized in the Action Plan. Ann converted the spreadsheet into Excel so it can be posted on Google Docs for regular updating.

Four subcommittees were established to focus on the four goals. Members are encouraged to coordinate outside of regular meetings and to put updates into the spreadsheet at least quarterly. Goal 1 – Brian McBride and Brian Kelder; Goal 2 – Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Shirley Canniff; Goal 3 – Wendy Richter and Eliza Hatch; Goal 4 – Ann LeRoyer and David White. David Morgan and Nelson Mui will be Town liaisons on all goals.

David White and Brian McBride will refine the spreadsheet and post it on Google Docs. We will discuss the tracking process further at the February 22 meeting.

b. On-going Projects.

EcoFest is scheduled from Saturday, April 20 to Sunday, May 5. Elisabeth and Wendy attended a planning meeting. A “resource fair” is being planned at the High School, including a focus on environmental issues in



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which we could participate. Other ideas are an urban ecology workshop at the Community Center, possibly on Sunday, April 21, an open house at the Robbins Farm garden, and an event at the orchard on Saturday, April 27. Wendy and Elisabeth will continue to coordinate with the EcoFest committee to finalize OSC-sponsored programs.

- c. CPA projects (Public Land Management Plan, McClennen Park retention Ponds, No Name Brook, Orchard Signage).
There were no updates on these projects.
- d. Other Items.
No updates.

3. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.
No update.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission.
No update.
- c. Conservation Commission.
David White noted that Con Com is largely focused on peer review studies of stormwater and planting plans for Thorndike Place (Mugar property).
- d. Department of Public Works.
Nelson reported on a couple of projects: a new Big Belly trash receptacle at Thompson School to address rodent issues; new bids being requested for landscape contracting services at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery; and a new bid process for irrigation systems for parks and playing fields.

Brian McBride asked about tree trimming in wooded areas, and Nelson reported that is a constant problem but DPW has a limited staff and some contracted vendors to try to keep up with the needs.
- e. Envision Arlington.
Elisabeth noted that the annual survey is posted on the Town website and everyone should complete it.
- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.
Wendy commented that the open space rezoning article is still being discussed, along with a variety of other zoning items.



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- g. Other Committees.
No updates.

4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking).

- a. Town Meeting articles for 2024.
No updates.

- b. Artificial Turf (Study Committee, High School and Arlington Catholic fields).
Mike Gildesgame is the Con Com rep. David White reported that Mike told ConCom that progress has been slow and the committee may seek to be extended beyond the spring Town Meeting deadline.

- c. CPA FY23 (Cooke's Hollow, Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park).
No update on Cooke's Hollow.

Public meetings have been held on planning for Mt. Gilboa, and an online survey is available to gather additional comments.

The playground at Robbins Farm Park is under construction.

- d. CPA FY24 (Hill's Hill, Invasives, Mill Brook, Pond Lane, Foot of the Rocks).
Brian McBride said the Hill's Hill working group has been meeting and will review a new plan next week. A public meeting will be scheduled later in the spring.

No updates were available on the other projects.

- e. CPA FY 25 (Public Land Management Plan, McClennen Park ponds, Menotomy Rocks playground, Parallel Park playground)

Park and Rec has scheduled public meetings on Menotomy Rocks and Parallel Park later this week.

No updates were available on the other projects.

- f. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects (Thorndike Place, 1021 Mass Ave, Mirak).
Thorndike Place is being reviewed by the Conservation Commission.

The two houses at 1021-1025 Mass Ave. have been demolished in preparation for new construction.



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Construction on the Mirak apartment site, now named The Artemis, is progressing.

g. Other Items.

Wendy suggested that at the next meeting we discuss having some in-person meetings during the year.

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