



## Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: September 24, 2024.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

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

Visitor: Emily Myron.

Absent: Shirley Canniff, Brian Kelder.

### Minutes.

#### 1. Administrative.

- a. June 27 meeting minutes – to be approved next month.
- b. Committee Membership, Potential new members: Emily Myron & Charlie Blandy.
- c. Budget discussion.
  - Grey bill for Town Day expenses approved.
  - Approval of funding to purchase OSC tent.
  - E. Carr-Jones reported OSC expense for Environmental Summit to be a portion of custodial fees. Committee approved up to \$100.
  - Expenses (if any beyond CPA budget) for Orchard Signage events will be reviewed as needed.
  - OSC voted with all in favor of appropriation for expenses up to \$250 not to require a vote.
- d. Other Items.
  - Discussion of in-person vs remote OSC meetings going forward. Table decision until new members have joined. Hybrid option mentioned. D. Morgan will find if a room with Hybrid capabilities is available.

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

- a. OSRP Implementation: Goals' working groups (WG) update.
  - Suggestion: WG to report on their goals quarterly or bi-monthly.
- b. On-going Projects.
  - Environmental Summit recap:
    - 60-70 participants. 20 presentations by environmental groups, including AHS students, prospective projects – individual groups and collaborations. Send participants who signed-in link to video.
    - Themes: Climate resiliency, waste reduction, transportation, reduction of fossil fuels, increase biodiversity.

Town Day recap:



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Very wet 2024 Town Day. Next year OSC to have its own space and tent. Ask if TD 2025 will be one week earlier in September (as it was in the past.) OSC to create TD WG spring 2025 to plan ahead before summer.

Orchard Signage events: W. Richter reported that Kids' sign making workshop is scheduled 10/19/24 2-4pm and on-site gathering at Orchard scheduled 10/26/24 2-4pm for unveiling of labels & signs. A. LeRoy offered to work on publicity.

Fall Bird Walk: A. LeRoy will contact Chris Floyd to schedule a walk on 11/9.

- e. CPA preliminary submission for 2026 due 10/11/24:
  - Grant opportunity (Tree Committee) for tree management plan for public shade trees.
  - Survey trees on town properties, start with "high priority"/larger sites, mature trees. Bikeway, conservation lands and then move to smaller parcels. Check-out existing map in GIS. D. Morgan to draft preliminary application from DPCD jointly w/OSC (or Tree Committee).
  - Public Land Management Plan (update later).
- f. Letters of Support: No letters discussed.
- g. Other Items.

### 3. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development.
  - Environmental Summit, BioBlitz at Menotomy Rocks, Nature's Neighbors sustainable practices.
  - Nature Futures research priorities around town.
  - Preliminary 2026 CPA applications.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission. (E. Carr-Jones reported for S. Canniff)
  - Hill's Hill RFP posted, bids due 10/10/24, substantial completion by 6/30/25.
  - Crosby Courts open meeting for neighborhood input 9/29/24 at 9am.
- c. Conservation Commission.
  - Mugar/Thorndike Place reviewed at Environmental Summit.
  - 10/24 next public meeting.
- d. Department of Public Works. There were no updates. (New Liaison TBD)
- e. Envision Arlington. There were no updates.



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- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board. (New Liaison TBD).
  - W. Richter requested new ARB Liaison of ARB members.
  - MBTA Communities on Belnap Street.
  - New Business District in the Hts. to go before TM next spring.
  - Mixed-Use project going in next to CVS on Mass Ave next to AHS.
- g. Other Committees.
  - The Arlington Land Trust (ALT) gave a report at Environmental Summit.
  - ALT providing additional wetlands research at Thorndike Place/Mugar Property for Conservation Commission.

### 4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking)

- a. CPA FY23 updates.
  - Mt. Gilboa report w/ recommendations to Conservation Commission.
  - Robbins Farm Park trending toward completion end of fall 2024.
- b. CPA FY24.
  - Mill Brook/No Name Brook: 11/14/24 public forum with consultant. Rename competition in spring 2025. Initial survey March 2025. Incorporate bikeway feasibility.
  - 21 Pond Lane 2<sup>nd</sup> public forum on 9/12/24. Arlington's "Garden in the Woods," summary to select board for additional funding from the state. Final public forum in early November.
- c. CPA FY25.
  - Bikeway improvement plan implementation: ongoing including Blue Bikes – installing additional stations, Ryder St. intersection.
  - Public Land Management Plan – New phase (after new Rec Director is on board) to start up in January.
  - McClennen Park Ponds survey next spring.
  - Menotomy Rocks playground ConCom approved, tight budget/phased project.
  - Foot of the Rocks needs additional funding beyond CPA grant. State grant.
- d. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects.
  - Mugar/Thorndike Place – Conservation Commission Hearing 10/24 7pm.
  - 1021 Mass Ave – under construction.
  - 1065R Mass Ave/Mirak project - A. LeRoyer advised on installed signage.
  - Relocated Ryder's Brook – with protected easement.
- g. Other Items.
  - Pine tree at mixed-use project 821 Mass Ave (next to CVS) Atwood house.



## **Arlington Open Space Committee**

Meeting adjourned 9:03 PM.

2024 Meetings (4th Thursdays except Nov. and Dec.): Oct 24, Nov 14, Dec 12.

2025 Meetings: 1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22, 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11