



Arlington MA Open Space Committee Minutes

Date: June 27, 2024

Time: 7:30 pm.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

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

Absent: Shirley Canniff

Public Attending: None

Minutes.

1. Administrative.
 - a. Approval of May 2024 Minutes - A unanimous vote passed approving these minutes.
 - b. Member terms - Brian McBride term was renewed until 2027. Eliza Hatch will not extend her term on OSC.
 - c. New Membership – David Morgan will work with Town Manager and web team to post OSC openings.
 - d. Budget - Upcoming expenses for the Environmental Summit and Town Day. The Committee unanimously voted to approve up to \$300 to be spent on Town Day. Future authorization will be needed in September for Environmental Summit. Expenses are expected for 10 copies of David Morgan's new Sustainable Landscape Handbook, copies of which will be distributed to key partner groups. David Morgan will compile a list of people to receive the printed document. The 2024/25 Budget proposal will be due in October.
 - e. Other Items - No meetings planned for July and August. Working groups will gather on target projects. Remote Meetings can continue for 2 more years.
2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).
 - a. OSRP Implementation – reminder to review Google Doc over summer.
 - b. On-going Projects.
 - Orchard Project – the group met to move the signage project forward. Goal is to update CPA Committee on progress. An artist is ready to support signage. Team will work to engage younger kids to participate.
 - Environmental Summit – Plans underway for the October event. David Morgan, Bruce Moulton, and Elisabeth are key coordinators, now reaching out to partners including the Tree Committee, Land Trust, ArMI, Conservation Commission, Sustainable Arlington, and Charlotte Milan among others. Format, theme, topics are under discussion.



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- Town Day – Planning on sharing a tent with other groups at Town Day. OSC will be located nearby other environmentally focus groups. Ann LeRoyer asked on behalf of Land Trust to share a booth to help with logistics and staffing.
 - Bird Walk – Ann LeRoyer will ask Chris Floyd to host another bird walk at the Res.
 - CPA 2026 – Submission of preliminary applications are due in October. Committee will need to consider applications.
- c. Letters of Support for legislation on Municipal Reforestation bill. Legislation session is ending. Plus the lack of clarity on who would own this means no action at this point as Tree Committee seems better suited to address this topic.
- d. Other Items. None.
3. Updates from Liaisons
- a. Planning Dept - Master Plan process starting in June with monthly meetings. Ann reports a consultant likely to be hired once RFP is approved in the Fall. The Pond Lane project will move ahead this summer with public input around concepts to be solicited this summer. Cooke's Hollow project funding under discussion, following the recent Spring concept refinement. Possible use of CDBG funds (\$175K) to advance concepts to shovel-ready design state, once funding is clarified. Potential state funding for tree support. More to come this summer.
- b. Park and Recreation Commission - no report. David noted a new Recreation Director will be selected as Joe Connelly is leaving for a job in Andover. Natasha Waden will fill in temporarily.
- c. Conservation Commission - Thorndike Place project still under discussion. Two plans under discussion for Mt. Gilboa. Selling house not favored by Con Com members.
- d. Public Works – No news.
- e. Envision Arlington – No news.
- f. Arlington Redevelopment Board - No news.
- g. Other Committees - Reservoir Committee: Invasive removal continues. Machine working this month.
Tree Committee: The committee felt we need a better contact with Susan Stamps, perhaps a check-in prior to each OSC meeting. Continue this discussion next month.
4. Updates/Discussion.
- a. CPA FY23 updates - Mt Gilboa: See above. Robbins Farm: Construction underway.
- b. CPA FY24 updates - Pond Lane: see above. Orchard Signage: see above.



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- c. CPA FY25 updates - Menotomy Rocks: Design underway with modifications requested by Con Com during working session.
Foot of Rocks – seeking additional funds to keep project on track.
- d. 40 B Projects - Mugar Wetlands Project: Con Com dialog regarding storm water management continues.
1025 MA Ave – Moving ahead.
- e. Other Items - Topics for Next Meeting: CPA submissions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.