

**CITY OF BEVERLY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

BOARD: Open Space and Recreation Committee
SUBCOMMITTEE:
DATE: April 7, 2021
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Alden-St. Pierre (Chair), David Brewster (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Dunne, Marilyn McCrory, Todd Callaghan, Gregory Sharp, Alison Dudley, Wayne Miller, Charlie Mann
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenna Pirrotta, Environmental Planner
OTHERS PRESENT: Chelsea Zakas, Associate Planner
RECORDER: Sarah Scott-Nelson

Call to Order

Alden - St. Pierre chairs and opens the meeting at 7:03 p.m., noting that it is a virtual meeting as allowed during the State of Emergency declared due to the national crisis of COVID-19. Alden-St. Pierre confirms that all members are present and can hear all participants.

Members of the Public Opportunity to Address the Committee, if any

Jim Carnazza, Full Circle Earth

Carnazza explains the nonprofit, Full Circle Earth, detailing the greenhouse and the organization's public outreach plans. Carnazza comments that he has interest in a partnership with the City and leads discussions concerning organic land care, interest in a small space for a public display garden and interest in a larger space for organic lawn care display. Callaghan mentions a few potential areas for these displays. In response to McCrory's question, Carnazza notes that he does not currently have locations in mind for these sites. Alden - St. Pierre suggests that the OSRC can connect Carnazza with others to help him find locations.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, as available

March 3, 2021

The Committee reviews the draft minutes and offers edits. Mann moves to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Callaghan. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0.

Principal Items of Business

Community Preservation Committee – Representative report on activities, if any

McCrory reports that the CPC finished its review of the round eight applications and notes that there will be a meeting to discuss potential projects with City Council on Monday. McCrory notes that four projects were approved, including emergency repairs of senior housing elevators,

National Register listing of the Dodges Row cemetery, updates to the Cabot House Museum HVAC system, and renovation of the Wentworth Drive Tot Lot.

Planning Board – Representative report on activities, if any
38 Standley Street – Open Space and Residential Design waiver

Pirrotta summarizes the Open Space and Residential Design waiver request presented to the Planning Board and notes that the Planning Board is requesting the OSRC's review and feedback. McCrory raises the question of why the Waring School does not use this site for the soccer field. Miller notes that the Planning Board is seeking input regarding whether there should be Open Space requirements for creation of a subdivided lots, and that there is no space for a soccer field on this property. The Committee notes that the property seems to meet the specific criteria and intent of the OSRD Ordinance and that issuing a waiver would not benefit the City. Issuance of a waiver may benefit the applicant by gaining more money for the sale of the individual lots due to increased lot size, but would not lead to increased land protection. Sharp moves that the Committee send a letter to the Planning Board, noting that the Committee is not in favor of issuance of an OSRD waiver. Seconded by Callaghan. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0.

Conservation Commission – Report on activities, if any

Alden - St. Pierre summarizes the history of a land swap to resolve the encroachment of the Waring School's soccer field onto City property. There was discussion at the Conservation Commission meeting and a public hearing was planned to obtain information from others and allow more time for discussion. The Committee discusses the land swap proposal and whether it would be a beneficial project.

Pirrotta reports on the Sally Milligan potential trail, noting that the Conservation Commission discussed visiting the site for an ecological inventory in early June for consideration of nesting birds. Brewster will coordinate with Robert Buchsbaum on the Conservation Commission on the ecological inventory. Pirrotta also notes that the next meeting of the Conservation Commission will involve review of an application for Dunham Ridge LLC to replace the pedestrian bridge and complete other landscaping work.

Harbor Management Authority – Report on activities, if any

Callaghan updates the Committee on the project to place 7 to 10 more public access signs at locations along the waterfront, which should be up by end of the summer. Callaghan also notes that a proposal was passed to place binoculars along the shoreline at Independence Park with a kiosk of sights you can see from the site, to connect the public to the waterfront. More kayak racks will also be installed at the park soon.

Parcel Updates, if any

Ryal Side and Temi Road parcels

Mann notes that he spoke with some representatives of the Ryal Side Civic Association, who expressed interest in the property but need time to look at the site and consider it. Mann comments that they may have an update by early summer and the OSRC will not take further action at this time.

27A/X

It is noted that there are no major updates for this project and that the Mayor is working towards setting up a meeting with Chris LaPointe of Greenbelt.

Bass Haven Yacht Club

It is noted that there are no updates on this item.

Congress Street Pocket Park

Callaghan notes that the project has stalled due to lack of time to write the proposal for the Harbor Management Authority members involved with the project. A scaled back scope of work to clean up the invasive plants and to install a bench are proposed for the area.

Elliot Beckford Simon Street Area

Dudley notes that there are no updates on this project yet.

Norwood Pond

It is noted that the meeting for this item has not yet been scheduled.

Endicott Area Trails

It is noted that there are no updates on this item.

Moraine Farm

Mann notes that there are no major updates but the parties are working on negotiations.

Encroachments

Mann moves that the OSRC write a letter to the Mayor requesting that the City look into turning paper streets into open space where there is no defendant. Seconded by Callaghan. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0.

Mann moves that the OSRC write a letter to the Mayor requesting that notification be sent to offenders of all known encroachments, to cut off the avenue of adverse possession. Seconded by Callaghan. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0. The Committee works on compiling a list of known encroachments to follow up on.

Other Property Updates

Trail Safety

Alden - St. Pierre comments on previous discussion regarding trail signage, noting that paramedics and the Beverly Fire Department often have a hard time finding people in emergency situations, when there are more minimal signs and would appreciate colored blazes. Mann

suggests making sure the police and Fire Department have access to good maps. The Committee discusses forming a subcommittee for further discussion.

Trail Guidance

Alden - St. Pierre raises the issue of the structure built at Greens Hill open space which needs to be removed and requests additional notification requesting its removal. Callaghan moves that the OSRC ask the City to send an official letter to remove the structure. Seconded by Miller. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Updates

Pirrotta notes that Chelsea Zakas sent out a timeline for the updates to this plan and requests that the Committee send feedback on it over the next month. The Committee would plan to review sections of the plan at a time.

Adjournment

Callaghan moves to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by McCrory. Alden - St. Pierre takes a roll call vote. The motion carries 9-0. The next meeting of the OSRC will be May 5, 2021 held virtual over Google Meet.