

## CITY OF BEVERLY

### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

BOARD: Open Space and Recreation Committee  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
DATE: July 7, 2021  
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Alden-St. Pierre (Chair), David Brewster (Vice Chair), Alison Dudley, Elizabeth Dunne, Charlie Mann, Marilyn McCrory  
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Callaghan, Gregory Sharp, Wayne Miller  
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chelsea Zakas, Associate Planner  
OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew G. Swindell  
RECORDER: Sharlyne Woodbury

#### **1. Call to Order**

Alden chairs and opens the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Note, this is a hybrid virtual meeting as allowed by extension (Act effective June 16, 2021 thru April 1, 2022) of state Executive Order signed March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19. Alden confirms that all members who affirmed are present and can hear all participants.

#### **2. Discussion regarding encroachments, protocols for enforcement, and parcel acquisition priorities.**

Zakas provides updates. The mayor would like to set up a separate meeting to discuss guidelines and protocol. Zakas reviews the mayor's schedule for the next few weeks. Early morning times are preferable or early afternoon. Zakas suggests inviting the city solicitor as well. Members discuss their availability. Zakas will follow up with the schedule and return to the members on best meeting times.

#### **3. Members of the Public Opportunity to Address the Committee**

Matthew G. Swindell will host a historic walking tour on Saturday July 10, 2021. Zakas sent the members an email with the link. Members and the public can email: [Events@historicbeverly.net](mailto:Events@historicbeverly.net). The walk will review nature trails in Beverly along Tanzella's Hill and Green's Hill.

Additional contact information: [Mgswindell99@gmail.com](mailto:Mgswindell99@gmail.com)

Maura Donahue and MaryAnn Holak were scheduled but unable to attend tonight's meeting.

There being no further comments or concerns. No action required at this time.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Mann moves to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes as amended. Brewster seconds. The motion carries 6-0.

## **5. Open Space and Recreation Plan Updates**

### **a. Survey**

Zakas begins discussion with the survey. Asks members if they had an opportunity to review the survey questions. Zakas notes the main objectives are how people are using open space, where they are using it, and where they would like to see change. Mann notes the prior survey questions are still relevant. Zakas added the question, “would you ride a bike or walk to an open space, if bike facilities were provided, are you more inclined to bike”? Mann would like to see a question to the effect of, “do you and your family feel welcome in open spaces”? Mann calls attention to the feeling of being not welcome, as evident of current events. Mann suggests a possible answer for selection would include the phrasing “I don’t feel welcome” or “I don’t feel safe”. Dudley weighs in noting residents of Gloucester Crossing do not feel safe in their area. The children and public prefer to visit the Balch park. Members also suggest adding why people do not feel safe; due to drug activity, etc.

Members review additional questions. Zakas assures members there will be options to add text boxes for further clarification and additional answers. McCrory suggests coming up with a map or choices for residents to select which parts of the city could be enhanced. Dudley suggests these types of questions: “what is the best way for you to get information about open space, and what is your preferred method of communication?” Zakas will work on edits, rewording questions and answers for the survey.

Mann inquires about open meeting laws and working documents. Mann proposes Zakas continue with edits and draft distributions being mindful of the open meeting laws and the tight time frame. Zakas reviews the open meeting laws and what’s appropriate. Dunne suggests making this survey easy access for mobile phones in order for more people to access and complete the survey. Zakas also discusses QR Codes in local businesses. Dudley inquires if members are permitted to distribute the survey. Alden will update the social media platforms.

### **b. List of Projects**

Members review the list of projects by ward. Members suggest to transfer the ownership of 27X Green Street to Conservation Commission since the city owns it. Mann discusses the encroachment of the land. Zakas will follow up with Pirrotta on the parcel. Members continue reviewing the list. Zakas notes this list will be continuously shaped by the public forum. Brewster suggests adding Foley Hill property/County Way extension to monitor development plans for the area and be prepared to offer advice as needed. Members discuss adding the environmental justice parcels to the list. Members review particular words suggesting changes to phrasing; such as adding the word “acquire”. This is key in order to develop the properties as the list aims to protect the perimeter of a valuable space.

Discussion resumes to Ward 4 and as 5.58 acre wood lot. Alden suggests for Ward 5 adding connectivity to the Norwood Pond trails as well as the connection behind the NSMT thru Greenbelt. Members advise removing reference to the fields where solar panels are located behind the Y.

Continuing to Ward 6 Mann suggests keeping the community garden on the list. Zakas will follow up with Pirrotta on the community garden in the new development. Members also agree to remove any private land owner names from the list. Alden recommends the members continue to review the document and contact Zakas with any suggestions/comments/concerns going forward.

There being no further comments or concerns. No action required at this time.

**c. Rough Draft**

Zakas discusses the plan update in its current form. Informs members there is much information to add before distribution. It's a time-consuming process cross referencing the many city projects, updates, and synthesizing the master plan projects with OSRC. Zakas would like to provide a list of commonalities between the two projects. Mann reviewed both and recalls off the top of his head he did not see any major issues or concerns.

**6. Principal Items of Business**

**a. Community Preservation Committee – Representative Report**

McCrorry notes there are no updates at this time. There is still \$720,000 available in the reserve.

**b. Planning Board – Representative Report**

Miller absent, no updates at this time.

**c. Harbor Management Authority Updates – Representative Report**

Callaghan absent, no updates at this time.

**d. Conservation Commission – Representative Report**

Alden provides brief updates. Items discussed under other agenda headings and parcel updates.

**e. Parcel Updates**

**i. Green Street update**

27 X – Zakas provides the updates. DPS will need to correct the retaining wall near the driveway. McCrorry mentioned Councilor Rotondo will work with DPS to try to expedite the retaining wall reconstruction. OSRC will be able to update the space with benches and other outdoor materials. Zakas reviews the budget allotted for the project. Mann has a kiosk ready for the Green Street entrance and notes it will require approval once fully constructed.

27A – Zakas provides the updates. Still waiting to schedule a meeting.

**ii. Project Adventure update**

Mann provides the updates. Pricing is still being discussed. All parties concerned are working on a solution where the benefits are productive for all concerned.

**iii. Bass Haven update**

Zakas provides the updates. A site walk was performed on the parcel. Zakas notes if the club is interested in gifting the land the mayor is interested in pursuing. If not, the other options for purchase will be further discussed and considered.

**iv. Beckford/Simon Street park**

Dudley provides the updates. There was a neighborhood meeting and the residents are interested in keeping this an open space. Currently they are waiting for the Beverly Housing Authority to do the appraisal. Alden inquires when the mayor will follow up on the appraisal. Zakas notes this will be a matter of the BHA contacting the mayor once the appraisal is complete. Alden will draft the letter in support of the project. Zakas inquires if a foreclosed property can also be purchased for open space. Members discuss pricing options.

**v. Norwood Pond update**

There are no updates at this time.

**vi. NSMT**

Zakas provides the update. The meeting still has not been rescheduled. Zakas will follow up with the mayor's office to reschedule.

**vii. Congress Street parks**

There are no updates at this time.

**viii. Endicott college trail**

Zakas provides the updates from the mayor's office with Rick Gagnon and Mann giving supplemental information. Per Mann, Rick Gagnon is head of maintenance. Mann is waiting for clarification on what "high, medium, and low trails" exactly are by the mayor's definition. Mann reviews the letter he sent the mayor in 2017 with a map of the trails and easement. Mann will forward the letter and email to Zakas. Brewster inquired where the trail leads out to, Mann replies on Thissell Street. Brewster inquires if a sign would be necessary, Dunne informs the members a sign is a sensitive topic. Dunne recommends follow up with the current family homeowners before installing a trail sign.

**ix. Pole Swamp**

Per Zakas there are no updates at this time. The mayor's office will need to reach out to the property owners again.

**x. Ryal Side Parcels**

There are no updates at this time.

**xi. Temi Parcel along Robinson Road**

There are no updates at this time.

**xii. Tanzella Hill**

There are not updates at this time.

**7. Trails & Open Space Discussion**

**a. Subcommittee discussion/Trail Safety & Trail Guidance**

Members discuss meeting requirements and those interested for serving on the committees. Dunne began organizing the subcommittee. She will coordinate with Zakas on scheduling meetings to assist with the set up and continue spearheading the initiative. Alden informs members the Beverly Hospital committed to funding on changing trail signage to avoid another tragedy. The BFD and paramedics who responded to an unfortunate situation in Beverly Commons would like to coordinate safety efforts on the trails. Members discuss having trail safety and geo-location apps on their phones.

**b. Trail Markers**

Alden and Mann will coordinate with materials replacing the missing markers with Alden replacing the numbers. Dunne inquires what can be done to stop the markers from being stolen. Members are dismayed and frustrated by the delinquent activities.

**c. Discussion on Conservation Commission NOI process for ongoing trail maintenance and minor projects**

Alden provides the updates. He discusses the processes involved by the Conservation Commission. These are minor trail projects and trail building. Zakas mentioned what is helpful to provide Conservation Commission a map of where these locations are. Mann weighs in. The purpose is to have a blanket approval for trail building. Becoming too specific and technical will stunt efforts to offer guidance causing the public to avoid presenting their trail ideas to the committee. Alden provided the guidelines from the Town of Weston as comparative community analysis as what would be ideal for Beverly.

**d. Sally Milligan**

- i. Graffiti found
  - 1. the rock will be cleaned up

**e. new trail Nathan Curie**

- i. Brewster provides the updates. They could not find any of Nathan Curie's flags. Brewster discussed the survey in the area. Also noted the graffiti found. Brewster reviews the area and calls attention to natural habitat of local birds. At the moment, Brewster does not fully agree with a connecting trail thru this landscape. Members will think on the matter.

**8. Other Business**

**a. Greens Hill/CPC grant – Discussion about type of and number of trail materials being purchased with the grant money (e.g. benches, picnic tables, etc.) and installation of those materials**

Mann provides the updates on the remaining finances which is about \$8,000. No one is maintaining the area. Believes the area is more enjoyable to leave natural. Agrees with putting in benches but does not advocate for additional structures. Mann suggests a split rail fence to delineate encroachment. Alden agrees there could be vandalism and litter. Mann suggests

picking a few spots with a view that are appropriate for park benches. Mann notes the DPW cannot use the funding to fix the retaining wall. McCrory suggests asking the PTO what the original intent of the benches are and how are they going to maintain it.

Swindell notes the Tanzella Hill sign was vandalized. He tried to clean up the spray paint unsuccessfully. Zakas will follow up on the sign located at Marion and Leech street.

**b. Future agenda items**

There are no updates at this time.

**c. Community Outreach**

There are no updates at this time.

**9. Adjournment**

Brewster moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Dudley seconds. The motion carries 6-0.

**No meeting in August.**

**Next Meeting: September 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**