

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Town of Tisbury
Department of Public Works
115 High Point Lane, Tisbury, MA

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27, 2025

Meeting called to order: 10:32am

Place: Zoom/Town Hall Annex

Attendance: Committee members - James Burrows (JB), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Carolyn Wallis (CW)
Others Attending: Kirk Metell (KM, Zoom)

1. Minutes

- January 23: CW moved, JB seconded. Approved 4-0

2. Updates - Kirk Metell

- Tennis/Pickleball

- CourtReserve is up and running, including Pay-as-you-Play, and for both tennis and pickleball.
- CR is currently set up for May 1 through November 1, but this can be adjusted. Church Street clay courts will open for play Memorial Day weekend.
- With CR in place, the Committee needs to determine whether we'll offer pickleball open play (free for everyone). CW suggested 8 - 10 a.m.; the alternative is mid-day, e.g., 11-2 or 12-3, a less desirable time for paying players. She also suggested that open play be available M and W, with F, S, and Su designated for members and Pay-as-you-Play. JB will look into the option to set up CR to open the court locks for a specific time period. As it currently stands, DPW will send someone over to lock and unlock the gate for open play.
- The designated times for play at Lake Street will be dependent on completing fence installation, the gate lock, and setting up Wi-Fi. The fence contract is currently scheduled to go out for bid in April or May. CW suggested KM put the bid package out earlier so that we can ensure that work is completed for play by Memorial Day. KM will talk to Heid Rydzewski about setting up the WiFi.
- CD asked JB to design signs for both Church St and Lake St for KM's review to ensure users have a QR code, know the CR directions and court rules. JB will also work with Marie at DPW to try out CourtReserve in March.

- Other Updates

- Island Home Builders is set to build the picnic pavilion at Lake Street and stairs at the Owen Park bandstand (including moving the electrical). .

3. Tisbury Park Special Event Application and Guidelines/Procedure

- CD asked that final comments be forwarded to her before the next meeting. These documents, plus the park fee spreadsheet, will then be forwarded to Kirk for final review, then to the Select Board. Kirk

will check with Joe LaCivita on handling of approvals. The cover letter to be sent with the documents will clarify where these funds will go (DPW parks fund).

4. Jazz Concert - Toni Williams Request for use of Veteran's Park

- A response was received from Toni (Managing Director, Jazz on the Vineyard) indicating the desire to proceed with the Veteran's Park application for August. Apparently, they will no longer pursue use of Tashmoo Springs Park for Saturday, the day before the concert. The Committee and KM unanimously agreed that it was not feasible to hold the concert event without damaging the athletic fields. CW will draft a response that would include all requirements.

5. First Fridays

- CD has asked Phil Wallis to explain costs/expenses, associated with first Fridays since they use Town property/parks. There was discussion regarding whether this was a Town event and if it should be subject to the Special Events procedure and fees. The Cultural District has been paying for a police detail to manage traffic on first Fridays. KM brought up The Tisbury Street Fair, which is considered a town event. Proceeds from this event are donated to the Town fire and police department associations. DPW is not but should be compensated for work performed in support of First Fridays and the Street Fair.
- CD asked KM to identify the location of funds donated several years ago by the Friends of Owen Park. We would like to determine from the donors whether these funds could be applied to other parks/projects.

6. Tennis/Pickleball Clinics; response to FACT

- JB summarized the current thoughts regarding clinic days and times. We will no longer schedule a second (late morning, 11 a.m.) MWF adult tennis clinic, nor the third TTh pickleball clinic. Instead, a session would be scheduled for each on Saturday mornings (9:30 - 11 a.m.), including one at Lake St. for kid's tennis. JB will check with David McNamara on the potential to schedule a second Saturday morning tennis clinic at Church St. (11 - 12:30 p.m.); if two can be held, one would be designated for beginners/intermediate, while the second would be for intermediate/advanced. If we can do only 1, that would be for intermediate/advanced. David is agreeable to holding a later afternoon clinic at Church Street (e.g., 5 p.m.), but Saturday may be preferred. Kids clinics would be MWFSa at Lake St (3 sessions - 3-4, 4-5, 5-6). Strategies for attracting teens have not been successful.
- The Committee agreed that we reply to Friends of Chilmark Tennis that we will wait until 2026 before considering assigning dates/times for their use. JB will draft a response.
- The Committee discussed the potential to block the Church St courts 8-9:30 on Tuesday for Senior Center use. We would need to establish a fee and mechanism for court access. This would presumably be 2 or 3 memberships. JB expressed some concern that we would be blocking off highly desirable times, keeping other members or Pay-as-you-Play from using the courts.

7. Committee Updates

- Water Trails

- CW has provided edited text for the Water Trails StoryMaps to GH. This text will be incorporated once Chris Seidel inserts dynamic maps. GH noted that he currently has 0-1 photos per site for the

Lagoon stops and no photos for Tashmoo stops. CD suggested we take photos with signs installed, and to advise Sheriff's Meadow that they should proceed with making signs.

- Lake St

- CW has collected photos of playground equipment. JB has playground photos as well. CD noted that, if three Committee members attend a subcommittee meeting (Maura is also working on aspects of the Lake St. plans), the meeting needs to be posted. A spring public workshop needs to be planned.
- GH noted that Lake St. Park is still part of the Town's wastewater plans (for a cluster system), though playground planning should proceed since the wastewater system, if needed, would be several years out.

- Veteran's Park

- CD and GH have met with Ray Cody (EPA), Daniel Macadam (UNH Stormwater Center), and Sheri Caseau (MVC). The key takeaways were that HW is good firm. The group recommended that we talk with HW about phasing of the project, funding sources, and a focus on volume control (not just nitrogen). This would be a telephone call just to receive input, not a formal part of the Veteran's Park project. CD recommended that this be built into a 5-year capital plan (along with Lake St. and other potential projects).

8. Next Meeting (March 13)

- One agenda item suggested for the next meeting was finalizing the Special Event application and guidelines. Another agenda item could be the development of a communication strategy for tennis/pickleball clinics and development of Committee topics for discussion with Joe LaCivita, the new Town Administrator; we will discuss at the meeting whether to send these in a letter or use them for a Committee meeting with Mr. LaCivita. Committee members should send ideas on communication focus to CD before the next meeting. KM will be meeting with Mr. LaCivita early on March 3.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, CW seconded, approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson