

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 12, 2025

**Meeting called to order:** 10:35am

**Place:** Hybrid - Zoom/Town Hall Annex

**Attendance:** Committee members - James Burrows (JB, Zoom), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH),  
Maura Valley (MV, Zoom), Carolyn Wallis (CW)  
Others: Stephen Zablotny (in part)

**Minutes, May 22, 2025:** Maura asked minutes be corrected with regard to the Lake Street Park septic, changing  
“...It appears that we’ll be able to go forward with plans to use this system ...” to “...It looks  
promising that we’ll be able to use this system...” We won’t know for sure until the D-box has  
been located and checked. CW moved that minutes be approved, MV seconded. Minutes were  
approved as amended with this change, 5-0.

**1. Kirk Metell Updates**

Kirk was unable to attend. In his absence, CD provided the following updates:

- **Lake Street:** Kirk has indicated that the new fencing should be installed sometime before August 30. Heidi Bryant has been OK'd to hold a pickleball fundraiser to support IGI on the courts in August; we'll need to monitor progress on the fencing project and notify Heidi if the courts will not be available. We still await drawings for the picnic pavilion.
- **Tashmoo Springs Pond:** No apparent progress has been made.

**2. Tennis/Pickleball Update**

- **CourtReserve:** CD reported that CourtReserve is up and running. Melinda has indicated that it seems to be working. Quite a few Pay-as-you-Play reservations have been made. WiFi and internet gate access at Lake Street will be put off until the off season. The Senior Center is using the Church St. courts for their program. CW plans to play this weekend and will send word regarding conditions.
- **Outreach:** CD and CW distributed outreach fliers and John Custer has sent out a message to parents. Only one person has signed up for a pickleball clinic. A pickleball membership is required; further outreach is likely needed. Several persons have signed up for tennis clinics. CD will contact the Town Columnists for the papers to communicate about the clinics. JB will spread the word amongst tennis players.
- **Pickleball:** Players are unhappy about the pickleball nets installed - they blow over easily. Kirk will look into adding weights/stability.
- CD also noted that the pickleball players are unhappy about the 1 hour limit for play, noting that 1 1/2 hour would be better. JB noted that pickleball clinics are scheduled for an hour. CD will follow up.

Finally, a letter was received from a neighbor complaining about the noise level from pickleball; signage will be installed encouraging players to use low-noise equipment.

### **3. Committee Membership**

- Appointments: MV has noted that she is unable to continue with the Committee. Others should send a letter to Pam Bennett indicating a willingness to continue. GH moved that CW be reappointed as the Committee representative to the CPC; MV seconded; approved 5-0. CW noted that a letter to CPC is needed, communicating this decision; CD will follow up.

### **4. Committee Workshop for 3-Year Open Space Plan Extension**

- The Committee previously agreed to proceed with a request for a 3-year extension of the current plan, rather than a full plan update. We will need to develop an action plan for the extra 3 years. It was proposed that we schedule a workshop session for July 10 to review ideas; MV indicated a willingness to join. CD suggested that Committee members review partnerships with other Boards/Committees, and also look at existing committee goals and agree on achievable activities/projects. What have we done well and what more we need to do to accomplish them? Who are our partners and how will they benefit us? Committee members who are involved in projects (e.g., Lake St., Veterans Park) should write up a summary of current status for review at the June 26 meeting. Summaries would be shared with the Select Board and any identified project partners. Other projects may include Lagoon Harbor Park and a bicycle connection between Beach Road and Lagoon Pond Road. Would a staff member or part-time person help the Committee accomplish its work? How would a community input meeting contribute and how would it be structured? CD noted that she would like to be ready to submit the extension plan to the State office in September. CD will request further information from Melissa Cryan at the Commonwealth Office.

### **5. Water Trails**

- CW reported that she and Kristen Geagan went out onto Tashmoo by boat and flagged locations, as well as taking photos. An excursion out on Lagoon Pond is planned for Friday (6-13-2025). Sheriff's Meadow (SMF) has started the process of making signs. Help will be needed to install the signs (pound them in). GH noted that 2 photos per site have been entered into the Tashmoo Story Map. CW suggested holding promotion until signs are in. The Wood Island site will be signed to only paddle around the island - no landing. SMF will print fliers to advertise the Water Trails.

### **6. Park Signs**

- Steve Zablotny joined the meeting to discuss preliminary plans for this project. With funding cut from \$18,000 to \$12,000, how will the project be adjusted? The project has three phases - 1) Fact-finding - current conditions, possibilities, etc., 2) Preliminary Designs, and 3) Final Design. CD suggested visiting the parks and looking at how signage could convey ownership/identify. GH suggested the parks to be included could include Owen Park, Veteran's Park, Church Street Tennis Courts, Lake Street, and Tashmoo Beach. Steve expressed that the signage system would include Identity, Regulation, and Social/Historic Context. He noted that it would not be necessary to include all three for all parks. Some fact-finding could be done by the Committee. CD asked Steve to write up a contract with adjusted language on expectations for the Committee as well as his deliverables; the contract should be approved by Steve and Kirk Metell.

## **7. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is planned for June 26. Ideally, Steve will provide a draft contract for Committee review. Committee members should also consider the write-ups for projects.

## **8. Owen Park Use Application**

- A proposal for using Owen Park, using the bandstand for a series of line dance classes, has been received. The question is whether the \$100 fee is required for a series of classes or \$100 for each class in the series. The Committee agreed that the fee would be required for each use/class. CD will communicate the decision to Melinda and Kirk at DPW.

## **Adjourn Meeting**

GH moved, CW seconded, approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson