

Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes -

Date: Jul 31, 2025

Meeting called to order: 10:34am

Place: Zoom

Attendance: Committee members - James Burrows (JB), Cheryl Doble (CD), Gerard Hokanson (GH), Carolyn Wallis (CW)

Minutes, July 10, 2025: Minutes will be sent again and will be reviewed at our next meeting.

1. Updates

- Kirk had a conflict and was unable to attend.
- CD reported that she had heard from Tristan Israel regarding 1) Dog Park maintenance, and 2) mid-summer clear-cut mowing of the meadow below the Tashmoo overlook, impacting native plants; mowing in the early Spring would be better for the plants in the meadow.
- CD also brought up algae growth at the Church Street tennis courts, which is unsightly and makes the courts slippery. DPW has apparently applied a chemical treatment, which appears to kill the algae, but leaves a slippery brown residue behind. Raking is needed to remove the residue. Kirk has reported to CD that the West Chop pros (tennis clinics) are happy with the condition of the courts. CD will raise maintenance concerns at the upcoming meetings with Kirk and Joe LaCivita; the Committee is stuck in the middle between community members who contact us with concerns and the DPW. Committee members agreed that we can only suggest that folks contact DPW directly.
- CD also mentioned that Kirk shared plans for “speed tables” and pedestrian and bike lanes around the West Chop loop, and pedestrian walkways along Camp Street and along Pine Tree Road next to the Oak Grove Cemetery.

2. Committee Membership

- CD thanked committee members for stopping by Town Hall to be sworn in. She noted that the Town has not advertised for an additional member to the OSR Committee. She will contact Christina Colarusso to add a specific mention of the OSR Committee in her Instagram feed. Committee members were encouraged to identify community members who they feel would be interested in joining the Committee. We might need to shift the day/time of our meeting to accommodate a new member.

3. Review of 2019 Open Space Plan Goals

- CD shared on her screen a table listing 5 goals from the 2019 Open Space Plan (below), and suggested actions agreed to by the Committee in 2024. Actions were placed in columns spanning the time frame 2025 through 2029, and will form the substance of recommendations for a 3-year extension of the plan.

CD suggested that the Committee should target submitting the extension request in September. The 5 Goals were:

1. Improve stewardship of open space, parks and recreation resources
2. Improve existing recreation facilities and create new facilities to meet identified community needs
3. Create a network of pedestrian, bike and water routes that connect town parks and open space and integrate them within our neighborhoods
4. Increase waterfront access and recreational opportunities
5. Assure preservation of existing open space and explore use of town owned open space to protect water quality and mitigate climate change impacts.

- The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the action items for these goals, deleting those that the Committee felt would not be pursued (e.g., not within the current scope of the Committee), and moving items between various years of the plan. CD will send the updated table to committee members as part of the notes from this meeting.
- CD also distributed a draft list of challenges the Committee has faced in meeting goals. CW also has prepared a list; she will forward to CD for consolidation. These could be shared in a discussion with Joe that CD has scheduled for 1:30pm Wednesday, Aug 6.

4. Next Meeting

- The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be Thursday, August 14 at 10:30. CD will try to arrange a discussion with Joe LaCivita.

Adjourn Meeting

GH moved, JB seconded, approved 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Submitted by Gerard Hokanson