

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

June 6, a duly scheduled and posted hybrid meeting at BATV

* Action items and votes below in bold face

- 6:30 PM, Rosa opens meeting; after a quorum is present:

Present: John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Michael Rosa, Katie Shubin

Excused: Maria Martin, Mike Parker

Audience: Andrew Jennings

- #1 Open mic: None
- #2 Attempts were made to connect with staff. Zoom links sent rendered "Invalid meeting ID". Chair Rosa is concerned that we Zoom without posting a hybrid meeting. I canceled Zoom connection attempts. **Erika will email an update on scope of services and RFP shortly.**
- #3 Bartlett moves to accept the 4/4 minutes as presented, seconded by Bowen. Vote: 6-0-0¹
- #4 Henderson reads email from Tree City: Billerica membership has been reinstated as of 2022.
- #5 Discussion on adding Tree Warden to OSRPC to be the responsible party for Parks maintenance (which was Recreation task till 2017 bylaw change). Members agree no change is needed; we can work with the Parks & Trees Department as needed.
- #6 Kat sent goals / objectives spreadsheet to all 15 min before start of the meeting. The idea is that committee members fill these out by the July meeting.
- #7 **Clancy will work with Jennings and Craig Della Penna on locating the right contact for CSX. There may be leverage if CSX indeed owes back-taxes on the property. Henderson will check with the latest BCC member if she can help with her MassDOT and rail connections.**
- #8 Jennings comments:
 - Envision 2050, NMCOG's update of the RTP², will be discussed at a NMMPO³ meeting on June 28. It is likely that the draft plan will be released for a 21-day public comment period on that date. OSRPC should review the active transportation section of the plan to make sure it is consistent with current and future Town of Billerica plans, and submit appropriate comments.
 - He received an email from MBTA stating that the Heritage Road-North ROW has sections that are only 28' wide which is not enough to allow for 'rails-with-trails' without the addition of adjoining strips of property. Additionally, MBTA railroad ops, counter to current MassDOT practices and policy, added "under no circumstance" would it consider 'rails-with-trails'.
 - MBTA owns much of Iron Horse Park. Three projects in the MBTA's current capital plan impact Iron Horse Park:
 - (P1171) design and construct a new, fully accessible Commuter Rail maintenance facility, storage yards, and tracks.

¹ In favor - opposed - abstention

² Regional Transportation Plan

³ Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization