Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2019
Town Hall, Ashland, MA

Members Present: William Child, Martin Ring, Amy Sayed, Roberta Soolman, Jeanne Walker, Greg Wands

Members Absent: Judith Sallet

Guests Present: Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Ball, Rob St. Germain

Welcome and Introductions:
Ms. Soolman called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Riverwalk Project Update:
After a 3rd Re-bid, a contract was signed with York Bridge for a timber option bridge. Cost is $513,000. We were able to save money by not paying for the General Contractor, eliminating the MA Department of Transportation certification and having DPW do the site prep. Ms. Ball is currently working with York on scheduling. Letters notifying abutters of the project have been sent. DPW has done some clearing at Mill Pond. Green was on site with DPW last week to review progress to-date and will continue to provide oversight, along with a final review and sign-off before York begins work. The current plan is to construct from the Mill Pond side only. Ms. Ball will send the committee the timeline, along with the punch list of items that were not completed, the final costs, and the allocated funds remaining.

York suggested that the composite deck on the bridge match the composite on the observation platform, with black metal posts for the vertical. The committee agreed with this suggestion.

Ms. Ball will review lighting with Green. The committee would prefer they be on the walking surface or approximately 2 feet up the railing, facing downward. The committee would also like the lights to be on a timer.

Open Space and Recreation Plan:
Mr. St. Germain attended on behalf of the Town Forest Committee, which feels strongly about certain properties that abut the town forest. Ms. Soolman said that the plan and its land inventory were submitted to the state and has received conditional approval. Mr. St. Germain will provide Ms. Soolman a list of properties of concern to the Town Forest Committee.

Approval of minutes from 05/14/2019 and 07/10/2019:
Minutes of 05/14 were reviewed. Upon motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wands, the committee voted (5-0-1) with the wording as edited.
Minutes of 07/10 were reviewed. Upon motion by Mr. Wands, seconded by Ms. Walker, the committee voted (6-0) with the wording as edited.

Open Space and Recreation Committee at Farmer’s Market – August 10:
The Riverwalk tour poster was well received. The Committee discussed re-ordering new trail maps. We will print more for Ashland Day.

Updates:
Upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Committee voted 6-0 to re-appoint Ms. Sayed as the committee representative to the CPC.

Mr. Ring provided an update on the Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee. A Subcommittee will review easements with the Select Board on 08/18.

Mr. Wands provided an update on the Friends of the Trail. Clearing of the Trolley Trail will take place on 09/23.

Ms. Walker had no update on the Stormwater Management Committee.

Ms. Sayed provided an update on the CPC. The Town Forest Committee attended the last meeting to request additional funds to complete work to stop any further deterioration of the stone house.

Mr. Wands provided an update on Conservation Commission. The 126 Project and Eversource Pipeline will both be on the 08/26 agenda.

Mr. Ring provided an update on the Conservation Restriction Working Group. The Conservation restriction for Oak St was completed.

Mr. Child provided an update on the Bay Circuit Trail. He reached out to the Appalachian Mountain Club to do updates to the trail map.

Next Meeting is September 10, 2019

Upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Ms. Walker, the OSRC voted (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Sayed

Documents Reviewed During Meeting:
05/14 & 07/10 Draft Minutes