

# TOWN OF DEDHAM

## *Park & Recreation Department*

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### **The Dedham Recreation Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Steering Committee minutes**

Date :5/30/17 Meeting #5

#### Attendees (Members)

Jim Maher  
Clarissa Robyn  
Stephanie Radner  
Mac Sterling

Craig Pereira HW  
Justin Robert Shaw HW  
Bob Stanley PR

**The Dedham Recreation Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Steering Committee** held its fifth Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at Dedham Town Hall from 7:00 – 9:15 PM

The purpose of the meeting included:

#### Survey Report-out

HW presented the updated Survey Summary with some of the comparative analyses:

- Audience members commented that there are multiple ways to interpret some questions
  - Question #8 (how far is nearest open space/rec. facility) is straight forward, but
  - Question #9 (How do you usually get to these sites?) assumes that everyone goes there.
  - Question #7 (donating land to preserve open space) is theoretical and not valid...assumes people have land to donate
  - Question #19 (age groups that live in home) findings over-represent one cohort over others, should be compared against population statistics and identify where biases exist/don't exist and limitations with data. Obvious that many families completed survey...possibly skewing results.
  - Questions #19 and #6...represents that people think we are doing a great job with fields...identified out of top 8

- Question #4 add percentages here
- Questions #2 and #6...#2 identified Lacrosse fields as #4 need...yet shows up in #6 as #15 need
- SC Requested HW analyze further.

### **Revised/Updated Schedule**

HW presented the updated schedule which aligns with OSRC's request for 2-week turn-around on OSR Plan sections (review/comments/resubmit to HW) and to consider input from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Workshop. Final Deliverables pushed out one month to end of July 2017.

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- **May 19, 2017** Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Section 4 Draft
- **May 30, 2017 Steering Committee Meeting**
- June 1, 2017** Recreation Master Plan - Acknowledgements, Community Profile, Recreation Programming, Inventory Evaluation
- **June 2, 2017** Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Section 5 Draft
- **June 6, 2017 Public Workshop #2**
- **June 7, 2017** Recreation Master Plan - Needs Assessment, Maintenance Program
- **June 16, 2017** Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Sections 6, 7 Drafts
- **June 23, 2017 Project Team Check-in Call**
- **June 30, 2017** Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Sections 8, 9 Drafts  
Recreation Master Plan – Planning, Recommendations
- **July 14, 2017** Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Sections 1, 2 Drafts
- **July 28, 2017** Full Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

### **Recreation Master Plan Update/Report**

- Dedham's park/recreation space at a glance...
  - The Triangle/Common lacks programming. The property lies in an underserved portion of town as it pertains to town owned recreation facilities. However the park does have some historic value. Does it warrant change? Is there truly a need for a park in this area? Are there other town owned parcels that could be renovated or parcels that could be acquired to help serve this area.
  - Dedham has a large open space network. Much of its open space is owned by entities other than Dedham including a large portion belonging to private and institutional holdings.
  - 13% of Dedham's total land mass is covered by wetlands or water bodies
  - Manor Fields...are additional fields really necessary? Current athletic open space is over permitted, but compared to national trend Dedham has more than enough athletic fields.
    - The Manor fields plan will be further evaluated as part of the master plan and recommendations moving forward.
  - Feasibility of Rail Trail will be folded into reports
- Dedham's population density

- The oldest parts of Dedham which border Boston have been developed for decades, and have the greatest population densities as well as the greatest diversity and access to town-owned rec. facilities.
- Dedham's park accessibility
  - North of Providence Highway 1 has less access to town-owned rec. facilities
  - Transportation is a barrier
  - Overlay shows fair access in each district/block group for the most part
    - Can we break this down by type/age-cohort use/access?
    - Look at connectivity
- Dedham's park facilities
  - Picnic areas are a need...depends on definition and who provides it. Endicott is not part of Parks & Rec. Bear in mind it is a rental property so limited use
- National trends
  - According to a national survey conducted by Recreation Management magazine's 2016 State of the Industry Report listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years along with frequency (in parentheses) noted by survey participants:
    - Educational Programs (27.1%)
    - Fitness Programs (26.1%)
    - Mind-body/balance programs (25%)
    - Teen programming (24.2%)
    - Programs for active older adults (19.8%)
    - Environmental education (19.7%)
    - Arts & Crafts (18.8%)
    - Day camps and summer camps (18.3%)
    - Sports tournaments and races (18.1%)
    - Holiday events and other special events (17.7%)
  - In the same report public organizations planned to spend the most on their construction projects in 2016 indicating an increase and desire for more amenities and programs within parks. The survey also listed out those with parks systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years listed their top ten planned amenities:
    - Playgrounds (83.7%)
    - Park shelters (83.5%)
    - Park restrooms (77.3%)
    - Outdoor sports courts (70.9%)
    - Community centers (55.5%)
    - Bike trails (50.1%)
    - Skateparks (41%)
    - Dog parks (34.8%)
    - Community gardens (32.9%)
    - Disc golf courses (31.4%)
- Dedham's athletic field breakdown by type
  - Dedham has double the amount of Softball/little league fields as compared to national trends.
  - Dedham has less multi-use rectangle fields as compared to national trends.
  - Birchwood explained how field overlays work and how they were evaluated and inventoried as part of this report.
- Dedham's athletic field breakdown by usage

- Over-permitting of fields is an issue
- Schools and Parks & Rec. maintain MOU to maintain school properties...playgrounds are excluded. Schools see far less maintenance than park facilities

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- Lacrosse not included in this analysis because the Town does not offer use for lacrosse

- Goals (preliminary interpretations based on status of outreach and interviews)

#### 1. Programming

- Improve internal and external communications
- Marketing Plan
- Create more adult programming
- Create more teen level programming
- Broaden programming offerings beyond Athletics

#### 2. Accessibility

- Improve park connectivity
- Address ADA accessibility in parks
- A park or park programming within 1/2mi. Of all residents

#### 3. Maintenance and Operations

- Consolidate Athletic fields and like services
- Redistribute Recreation
- A park or park programming within 1/2mi. Of all residents
- Develop Park Maintenance Standards
- Develop a field and equipment replacement strategy

#### 4. Expansion

- Bring Manor Fields Project to life
- Future Plan for the Police Station Property
- Triangle Property

Report Out – Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

- HW presented the updated schedule which aligns with OSRC's request for 2-week turnaround on OSR Plan sections (review/comments/resubmit to HW) and to consider input from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Workshop. Final Deliverables pushed out one month to end of July 2017.

- Also discussed that in addition to OSRC's review of OSR Plan sections, that Recreation should also review Sections 5, 6, and 7 which have significant recreation discussions.

Public Workshop Logistics

- See separate attachment.

Open Discussion

- SC suggested an Action be included to develop a policy on Public Art installation.

## **Dedham Open Space and Recreation Plan Update/Recreation Master Plan**

### **Public Workshop #2 Logistics**

- June 6, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- Dedham High School Cafeteria
- Pull-down screen available on-site, HW will bring projector and laptop
- Bob will provide audio (personal)...he may not be attendance, but will make sure audio is there and ready

to use. Tracey will serve as primary point of contact in Bob's absence

- Parks & Recreation will coordinate light refreshments, similar to Workshop #1

**Formal Presentation 7:00 – 7:30 PM**

- Welcome/Project Overview – Bob (Dan if Bob isn't there?)

- Project Background – Craig/Justin

- Why Dedham has an OSRP (Craig)

- Recreation Master Plan (Justin)

- Update Process Status (Craig)

- Draft OSRP – What will be in it? (Craig)

- Conditions and Inventories

- Statistics

- Mapping

- Inventories

- Draft Recreation Master Plan – What will be in it? (Justin)

- Needs Analysis (Community Input) – Craig/Justin

- Public Workshop #1 Findings (Craig)

- Surveys

- Online Survey (Craig)

- Dedham Sports Programs User Groups (Justin)

- Stakeholder Interviews

- Community-wide (Craig)

- Dedham Sports Programs User Groups (Justin)

- Action Plan – Craig

- Overview of Goals, Objectives and Actions (in preparation for facilitated workgroups)

**Facilitated Workgroups 7:30 – 8:45 PM**

- Project Team Facilitators:

- Craig Pereira

- Krista Moravec

- Jeff Davis

- Patrick Kelly

- Art Eddy

- Justin Robertshaw

- Objective: Provide residents with an opportunity to weigh-in on the draft Goals, Objectives and Actions included in the 7-Year Action Plan for the 2017 Update.

- Process:

**Natural Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration and Enhancement 7:30 – 7:55 PM**

- Activity #1 – Review of Existing Goals, Objectives and Actions carried over from the 2010 OSRP.

- Activity #2 – Review of proposed Goals, Objectives and Actions developed from various public input opportunities:

- Public Workshop #1

- Online Survey/Dedham Sports Program User Group Surveys

- Stakeholder Interviews

- Open Space and Recreation Committee

- Steering Committee

- Activity #3 – What's Missing?

- Ask participants if there are any Actions that are not represented from the existing and proposed boards, and write them on the board

- Activity #4 – What are the Priorities?

- Give each participant 5 dots and ask them to identify their top five (5) priority Actions

### **Recreation Area Planning and Maintenance 7:55 – 8:20 PM**

- Activity #1 – Review of Existing Goals, Objectives and Actions carried over from the 2010 OSRP.

- Activity #2 – Review of proposed Goals, Objectives and Actions developed from various public input opportunities:

- Public Workshop #1
- Online Survey/Dedham Sports Program User Group Surveys
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Open Space and Recreation Committee
- Steering Committee

- Activity #3 – What's Missing?

- Ask participants if there are any Actions that are not represented from the existing and proposed boards, and write them on the board

- Activity #4 – What are the Priorities?

- Give each participant 5 dots and ask them to identify their top five (5) priority Actions

### **Land Acquisition, Funding and Management 8:20 – 8:45 PM**

- Activity #1 – Review of Existing Goals, Objectives and Actions carried over from the 2010 OSRP.

- Activity #2 – Review of proposed Goals, Objectives and Actions developed from various public input opportunities:

- Public Workshop #1
- Online Survey/Dedham Sports Program User Group Surveys
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Open Space and Recreation Committee
- Steering Committee

- Activity #3 – What's Missing?

- Ask participants if there are any Actions that are not represented from the existing and proposed boards, and write them on the board

- Activity #4 – What are the Priorities?

- Give each participant 5 dots and ask them to identify their top five (5) priority Actions

- Once all groups are finished, participants may move throughout the other groups and observe each other's work.