

Golf Course Landscape Master Plan Design Review Committee	Meeting Minutes
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Date: March 16, 2022

Place: Zoom Webinar

DRC Members Attending: John Bain, Clara Batchelor, Phillip Bell, Antonia Bellalta, Carol Hillman, Leigh Jackson, Justin Lawson, Theresa Mooney, John Parla

Guests: Daniel Bourdeau, Jane Flanagan, Tim Gerrish, Mark Mungeam, Mike Murphy

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION
Welcome/Introduction Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting commenced @ 2:00 PM J. Lawson opened the meeting welcoming the committee members and guests. A. Bellalta moved to approve the March 2nd minutes. J. Parla moved, C. Batchelor 2nd. Roll call: P. Bell, T. Mooney, C. Batchelor, C. Hillman, J. Parla, J. Bain, A. Bellalta. Unanimously approved.
Friends of Putterham Woods Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Flanagan, co-chair Friends of Putterham Woods (FOP), stated they have done several clean ups and planting of trees to restore the woods to what it once was. She mentioned that Putterham Woods was once the tree nursery for the Town of Brookline. Hoping for an “Emerald Necklace” by connecting Dane Park, and up Newton Street. There are opportunities for grant funding for restoration of the woods, pollenated gardens, etc. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Bellalta asked about the designation of the open space. It is protected under article 97. FOP has 54 members (part of the Greenspace Alliance). It is the Town of Brookline responsibility to clean up damaged trees removed due to last windstorm. Horticultural walks are part of FOP goals such as the Owl Walks of Dane Park. J. Parla asked what the feasibility is of connecting Dane, Hemlock Grove, and Skyline Path. J Flanagan said there is potential including Larz Anderson. T. Mooney asked how these plans relate to the golf course redesign. J. Flanagan and J. Lawson responded we are having these discussions in parallel, and we want the FOP part of these plans. J. Parla added we could be more robust with the trail system and not jeopardize the golf course. Also, adding shared space with The Country Club would enhance the trail. M. Mungeam said we want to be welcoming to the entire community as well as the golfers, but we would not propose anything that would present a safety issue.
Stormwater Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Lawson shared a video of the golf course’s stormwater/drainage issues during the summer of 2021. This resulted in the course being closed for 30 days. Loss of 4000 rounds. D. Bourdeau, Geosytec Consultant, presented an overview of

Geosyntec’s Role and a summary of their site visit to the golf course. His Course Flooding Evaluation [presentation](#) included the following points:

Key observations from site visit

Existing drainage overview, review of drainage sources from surrounding properties, citing site soils, swale conditions, culverts, and topography.

Vegetation is robust in the swales and takes up lots of space. Peat drains slowly

Recommendations:

Resolve flooding with scalable and repeatable implementations for the broader Golf Course. Design solutions that are permittable with Conservation Commission and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Implement cost effective and manageable solutions. Improve water quality of runoff from MS4.

Short-term: mow/trim vegetation in swales, culvert repair, video surveillance and repair of culverts etc. to increase flow capacity. Use temporary dewatering sump

Long-term: Continue with short term solutions and fill low areas/increase grade, subsurface seepage drainage laterals, daylight swales and replace culverts, restore vegetated swales wider and deeper like a “river corridor and riparian corridor”, etc.

Install a Pilot Program of 500 linear feet to determine if the solution improves flooding.

Addition of ponds on site and increase the sizes of existing ponds.

Additional studies:

Permitting Assessment with Environmental Agencies etc.

Costs of short-term and long-term recommendations

Funding opportunities

Questions:

- C. Hillman asked if there would be problems if we moved vegetation from open culverts.
D. Boudreau responded there would not be an issue. We would need to talk with the local Conservation Commission if the vegetation in the swales would be cut back substantially.
- A. Bellalta asked if this had to do with wetland plants.
D. Boudreau said these are jurisdiction perennial streams and these would require permits.
J. Lawson added we would need permission from the Conservation Commission for culverts and swales.
- J. Bain asked if we could pump water from other areas into ponds to save water for irrigation use.
D. Boudreau there are complications about putting ponds on the site. They would need a pump system to draw down water in advance of a storm and then utilize water from the ponds for irrigation, offsetting using the town’s potable water supply.
- A. Bellalta asked if TCC is working with us regarding the water issues.
J. Lawson responded there has been some forms of coordination since they have flood control devices on their ponds.
- A. Bellalta commented that we want to move the water from the playing area to off-site faster, retain it, then move it offsite. What are

	<p>the implications beyond the Golf Course site and are they addressing this?</p> <p>D. Boudreau stated depending on the volume of water, you either move it or temporarily store the water then control the drain off. It is a careful balance not to cause flooding downstream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Bellalta expressed concern about the peat issue. Can you change the structure of the soil, or will we always have peat on the site? <p>D. Boudreau there will always be peat but using sand in select sites to restore original drainage pattern. It is a challenging site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mungeam stated flooding and drainage are big problems we are concerned that it stays so long affecting play. After the rain event, we want to move it faster. 	
Initial Survey Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson announced the survey was closed this morning and it was posted in various places. 576 responses. He presented the result statistics. 	
Future Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson proposed the following future DRC meeting dates Wednesday, April 13th @ 5:30 Tuesday, May 17th @ 5:30 	
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Allen mentioned the new wet areas on his walks. Can we put some sort of retention at the bottom of the hill near the TCC? We need to muck out the streams and culverts. Maybe use the DPW. Focus on areas that do not require an approval process. • J. Lawson added with surrounding development and the severe weather events last year, this caused areas to be more wet than ever before. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to adjourn C. Hillman moved Adjourned @ 3:29 PM 	

Next Meetings:
April 13, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
May 11, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

Location: Zoom Webinar

A true record
Attest: Laurie Ferrell

Date: March 16, 2022