

Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
August 25, 2022 - 7:00 pm
Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, Lauren Webb, Nicole Holmes (joined at 7:20)

Members absent: none

Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes of the July 28, 2022 meeting, on a motion by Maureen and seconded by Lauren, were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Old Business:

- **Lakeshore Development Phase IV.** The Lake Nippenicket Action Focus Team (the Focus Team) submitted a Project Eligibility Form to the Community Preservation Committee for a proposal to create a park at the site where the developer has proposed a lakeside restaurant. The OSC is a “sponsoring organization” of that proposal. Consideration of the Eligibility Form was on the CPC agenda for August 24, 2022. At the Focus Team’s request made prior to the meeting, consideration of it was postponed to the CPC September meeting. Gina Guasconi, chair of the CPC, attended the OSC meeting to apologize for the brief discussion of the eligibility of the proposal that took place at the CPC 8/24 meeting; all discussion should have been deferred until the September meeting. Maureen Minasian, the OSC’s representative to the CPC, and Eileen Hiney attended the CPC August 24 meeting.
- **Parks information for Town website.** After talking with Lauren Webb, Josh McGraw is working on this and will report at the next meeting.
- **Tree Committee.** Nicole attended a recent Tree Committee meeting. The Tree Committee is developing a mission statement for a Tree Board that the Town Council will be asked to appoint. The mission includes creating a funding mechanism for tree planting, which may include mitigation payments from developers when trees are removed from a site. It will also include educational outreach to the community promoting the care and planting of trees. The Tree Committee is recommending that the Tree Board have 7 members, including a member from the OSC. The draft mission statement will be sent to the Town Manager for review. The OSC would like to see the Tree Board consider developing restrictions on clear-cutting at development sites.
- **Hanson Farm.** The Hansons have completed the survey of their property and will be delivering it to the Town Manager. Town staff has drawn up a draft Conservation Restriction for the property.
- **Property adjacent to Murray-Needs Conservation land.** Property adjacent to the Murray-Needs Conservation Land has been for sale. David Hanson has agreed to approach the property owner to mention the possibility of placing a conservation restriction on the property.
- **Wyman Meadows access plans.** Wildlands Trust staff is developing a proposed trail on the land WT owns that will be accessed using the adjacent town conservation property at this site. A proposed trail will be suggested to this committee and then will need approval from the Conservation Commission, which must approve the disturbance of wetlands on the property.

New Business:

- **Applicants for OSC vacancy.** Two people applied for membership on the OSC and have been interviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. Their names have been submitted to the Town Manager who will make a recommendation to the Town Council for approval of a new member of the OSC at the Council's September 13th meeting. A third person also submitted an application. Lauren's posting notice of the OSC vacancy on the Bridgewater Residents Facebook page may have helped generate interest.
- **Community Preservation Committee Annual Public Hearing.** At the Community Preservation Committee meeting on August 24th, the Committee decided to hire a consultant to organize and make a presentation at this annual meeting. It will include information about open space projects that have received CPC funds. The date has not been set yet.
- **Murphy's Landing - Wildlands Trust Project.** Eileen spoke with Wildlands Trust Staff recently about open space projects that organization is working on in Bridgewater. The Murphy's Landing project is one that has been ongoing for some time but our committee has not been aware of it. It is expected to provide river access near the bridge on Route 104.
- **Next Meetings: Thursday September 15, 2022 @7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Eileen Hiney