

Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
December 15, 2022
Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, Lauren Webb, Michael Silvia

Members absent: Nicole Holmes

Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order at 7:21 pm (due to Zoom technical issues).

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes of the November meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Pat Neary and Melissa Ramondetta, members of the public, noted that the Claremont Companies has submitted its response to MEPA concerning the proposed Phase IV development at Lake Nippenicket. Comments are due January 23.

Old Business:

- **Parks information for Town website.** Additional ways to improve the town website so that members of the public will be able to find information about the town parks was discussed. This topic came up at the Public Meet and Greet meeting held on 12/13. Michael had a ideas about various improvements to the website. We will wait until Josh McGraw is back at work and discuss this with him at the next meeting he attends.
- **Town Council approval of Nicole Holmes to Tree Committee.** At its most recent meeting, the Town Council formerly appointed Nicole as the Open Space Committee representative to the Tree Committee.
- **Wyman Meadow access plans.** Owen Grey was not able to attend to discuss Wildlands Trust's ongoing work on this project. Eileen shared the draft workplan that he sent her recently for review. Committee members suggested that the plan be made more specific, including estimated costs. Owen is talking with Steve Solbo about what will be needed when this project is presented to the Conservation Commission.
- **Schedule Bridgewater State Forest visit.** Eileen has called the Department of Conservation and Recreation office in Norfolk to get additional information about the 58.5-acre parcel near Water Street. That office is identified as the manager of this property. No one has responded to the 3 voice-mail messages she left. She followed up with an email to DCR's Urban and Community Forest State Coordinator; she responded that she is unfamiliar with the property and unable to answer questions about it; she suggested contacting the Parks Division.
- **Report on 12/13 Public meeting re: Parks & Trail system** this meeting was organized by Kitty Doherty of the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB) and Michael Dutton as a "meet and greet" so that people in town with an interest in parks and trails can get to know each other. Michael Dutton gave an update on work that is going on at the various parklands. The meeting provided a good opportunity to meet others with an interest in parks and trails. Future meetings will be scheduled quarterly.

New Business

- **Letter of Support for Old State Farm Trail.** Lauren moved that the OSC provide a letter of support for this project, Mike seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- **Listing of Property on North Street adjacent to Murray-Needs conservation land.** Eileen said that there is concern that the conservation value of the Murray-Needs property will be undermined if this combined 9 plus acres is sold for development. She has spoken with Michael Dutton about the potential for the town to acquire some or all of the property. The listing that is on Realtor.com has a list price of \$2.6 million.

Next Meetings:

The next regular committee meeting will be Thursday, January 17, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Submitted by Eileen Hiney