



Town of Bridgewater **Open Space Committee**

May 18, 2023

7:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82130135636>

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 821 301 356 36

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) April 20, 2023
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
 - a) Wyman Meadow Update
 - b) Tree Committee - Memo from Town Manager Attached
 - c) Chapter 61 Properties
 - d) Parks Info on Social Media
- E. New Business**
 - a) New Proposal for Hotel at Lake Nip
 - b) Report from Parkland Steward
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**

Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
April 20, 2023
Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

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

Member absent: Nicole Holmes

Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:10.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

1. Wyman Meadow Update. Mailing of the letter to abutters is behind the schedule that was discussed at the March meeting. Most committee members were not available for Saturday dates for a site visit. Eileen will contact Fred Chase, Town Council President and the Council member for the district/precinct where this property is located, prior to notifying the abutters.

2. Tree Committee. Nicole Holmes, the OSC's representative to the Tree Committee, made a presentation at the Town Council's April 3, 2023 meeting discussing how the town can go about becoming a Tree City again. Eileen suggested that the OSC might consider working with the Tree Committee at some point on ways to assess existing trees in the town's parks and open space parcels in order to promote their long-term conservation.

3. Report on 3/28/2023 Parks & Trails Roundtable Discussion. Michael Silvia and Maureen Minasian attended this meeting. A presentation was made by a BSU Professor and two students who are developing the technological structure for mapping of the new Old State Farm Trail. Michael has talked with Bob Rulli on two occasions about how he can offer his professional design expertise to town staff to help promote the town parks. Subsequent to the Roundtable, Kitty Doherty sent an email suggesting that future Roundtables be scheduled and coordinated by John Hart, as the Town's Park Steward, and the Open Space and Parks and Recreation committees.

New Business:

1. Parks info on social media. Pat Neary has seen postings on social media asking for information about the town parks. Links to the reports for each of the town's six parklands are on the town website but no information is posted on Facebook or other social media. We should consider creating social media posts to inform residents about the parks. For example, post a "Featured Park of the Week" and give a few facts about the location, trails, parking, etc. A format could be created to be used for each of the parks. Public information about the parks should include information about Native American history at each of the properties.

Additional Items: Maureen reported that at the last meeting of the Community Preservation Committee there was a discussion about whether the proposal submitted by the town for Community Preservation Funds to purchase two lots on Broad Street adjacent to Stiles & Hart should be funded. The issue was not resolved. The Open Space Committee submitted a letter to the CPC supporting that purchase.

The next regular committee meeting will be **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm.**
Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney

MEMORANDUM

To: All Board and Committee Chairs and Members
CC: Department Team Leaders
From: Michael Dutton, Town Manager
Date: May 9, 2023
Re: Role of New Tree Committee

As some of you may be aware, in December of last year the Town Council created the Bridgewater Tree Committee after the Town Manager's ad hoc Tree Committee developed a policy and operational framework for a permanent committee. I am happy to report that as of last month, the committee membership is full.

The committee's mission is to develop a comprehensive tree management program for the Town's public trees and to help advise other appointed bodies and general public on the planting, care, and management of all existing and new trees. The committee has been hard at work establishing committee goals and priorities moving forward and has asked that we help open communication between the members and our existing committees so that our committees can work together to discuss the specific roles each committee plays when it comes to the Town's public trees, as well as offer advice and expertise.

The members are excited to get started on this collaboration. Please feel free to reach out to my assistant Joshua McGraw at jmcgraw@bridgewaterma.org or Committee Chair Raymond Ajemian, at rpagemian@gmail.com, to discuss setting up a joint meeting if you feel your committee would benefit.

As always, if you need any additional assistance or have questions, do not hesitate to contact Joshua McGraw at jmcgraw@bridgewaterma.org or reach out to me directly.