Town of Bridgewater

Open Space Committee

September 21, 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/88985607093

To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923
Meeting ID: 889 856 070 93

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) August 17, 2023

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

a) Wyman Meadow Timeline Update
b) Tree Committee Meeting Report
c) Community Preservation Committee Report
d) Chapter 61 Properties Adjacent to Open Space
e) Lake Nip Hotel Proposal

i. Status of Planning Board and Conservation Commission Review

f) Parks Information on Town Website

E. New Business

F. Additional Items for Discussion

G. Adjournment of Meeting

Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
August 17, 2023
Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, Lauren Webb,
Member absent: Nicole Holmes, Michael Silvia

A. **Call To Order:** A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:02
B. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**: The minutes of the June 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
C. **Public Comment: None**

D. Old Business:

1. Wyman Meadow Update. A Notice of Intent related to this new trail proposal was presented to the Conservation Commission on July 13th. Owen Gray of Wildlands Trust described to the Commission the plan to build a length of bog board and a span bridge in wet areas. The Commission approved the project as proposed. Owen reviewed with the OSC the timeline for installation of the two water crossing structures, which Wildlands Trust staff and volunteers will do. This may take place as early as late September. Once the dates for trail clearing are set the OSC should engage local volunteers to help with this part of the project. There will be less than $1,000 in costs for this project, a portion of which, the Town will be asked to cover. Wildlands Trust is providing labor and covering part of the costs.

2. Tree Committee. No report.

3. Community Preservation Committee meeting report. The CPC has approved the allocation of CPC funds for purchase of the two lots on Bedford St. adjacent to Stiles & Hart. The OSC submitted a letter to the CPC in support of this purchase given our interest in acquiring land adjacent to existing open space.

4. **Chapter 61 properties**. Lauren reported that she and Michael Silvia have not yet created a list of the Chapter 61 properties adjacent to other open space parcels that they identified and discussed at the July meeting. Eileen attended a Conservation Commission hearing concerning a house site on South St. in the vicinity of one of the Chapter 61 properties to get an idea of what development is ongoing in that area.

5. **Stiles and & Hart Update.** The Town Manager's office has created a Stiles & Hart task force to review the final plans for this significant park upgrade. Eileen attended a meeting on 8/14 as the OSC representative to this group. The project consultant sought comments on the various proposed trails and parking areas. One item of interest is that the consultant has not been engaged to work on signage of any type for Stiles & Hart. From earlier conversations with town staff, Eileen understood Stiles & Hart signage would be developed and serve as a template for the other town parks.

6. Lake Nip Development Proposal

a. Planning Board Review. The Planning Board held a public hearing on the hotel project on August 16th. Eileen provided testimony at that hearing based on the comment letter Nicole Holmes submitted to the Board on June 5, 2023, on behalf of the Open Space Committee, pointing out the failure of the submitted plans to include design options that would reduce the environmental degradation the project is likely to cause. No decisions about the project were made and the public hearing was continued.

b. Comments to Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on this project on 8/24. Many of the issues that have come up so far at the Planning Board are within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Lauren moved that the OSC submit comments to the Conservation Commission. Maureen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

E. New Business

Bridgewater Revitalization. OSC members should be aware of the major planning initiatives for the downtown area under discussion. Numerous opportunities for the public to weigh in are being advertised. On September 26 at 6:30 pm there will be a public meeting at the Mitchell School on South Street to review the initiatives.

F. Next Meeting The next regular committee meeting will be **Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm**.

G. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney