

**Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
June 15, 2023
Final Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

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

Member absent: Nicole Holmes

- A. Call To Order:** A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:02
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.
- C. Public Comment:** None

D. Old Business:

1. Wyman Meadow Update. The site visit for abutting property owners, all of whom were notified of the event by certified mail, was held on Wednesday, June 14th at 5pm. Eileen Hiney, Michel Silvia and Maureen Minasian attended along with John Hart, Chief Park Steward, Owen Gray of Wildlands Trust, and Wendy Smith, Chair of the Conservation Commission. Only one abutting property owner attended; he was supportive of the project. The next step is to file the paperwork for Conservation Commission review. Owen will be responsible for this.

2. Tree Committee. No report

3. Chapter 61 properties. At the April 16th meeting, this committee decided to update the list of Chapter 61 properties that Lauren compiled in 2019. (No subsequent action was then due to Covid and lack of expertise using MassGIS.) The next step should be to make a determination about the open space value of the properties using, as a criterion, whether the Chapter 61 property is adjacent to other open space.

Lauren and Michael reviewed the properties they identified as meeting this criterion using the new Mass BioMap system. They will compile a list showing the location of the Chapter 61 properties, the owners, acreage, natural features, and the characteristics of the adjacent open space. Eileen will speak with Kitty Doherty about some of the properties identified. She will also approach town staff to explore whether the town might have an interest in pursuing protection of any of the Chapter 61 properties.

4. Parks Info on social media. No report.

5. Letter sent to Planning Board – Lake Nip Hotel

As discussed at our May 18th meeting, the Planning Board is reviewing a new submission by Claremont for construction of a hotel at Lake Nip. This committee approved submission of a letter objecting to the proposal based on Nicole Holmes' review of the site plans for the proposal. Nicole submitted a comment letter to the Planning Board on behalf of this committee on June 5, 2023 pointing out the failure of the submitted plans to include design options that would reduce the environmental degradation the project is likely to cause to public open space at Lake Nip Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Planning's Board's public hearing on this project has been continued to July 19, 2023 at 6 pm.

E. New Business

1. Comments to Planning Board – Perkins proposal, Broad St

At its May 18 meeting, the Planning Board heard a proposal for a large commercial and residential project at the Perkins property on Broad St. Protection of the Town River, which is adjacent to the property, is an important issue. The developer will be subject to state requirements to cap what has been deemed a landfill at the property and to take other steps to protect the river. This committee will not submit comments on this project at this time but will continue to track it.

F. Next Meeting The next regular committee meeting will be **Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** There committee will not meet in July.

Commented [FY1]:

G. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney