

**Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
May 18, 2023
Final Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, Lauren Webb, Nicole Holmes

Member absent: Michael Silva,

Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:05

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved, as amended, to note that Lauren Webb was absent from that meeting.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

a. Wyman Meadow Update. Eileen met with Councilman Fred Chase at the site to give him and overview of the project. The new date for the site visit with the abutting property owners is Wednesday, June 14th at 7 pm.

b. Tree Committee. Nicole recently made a presentation to the Town Council about the process for Bridgewater to regain its Tree City status. To satisfy one of the requirements of that process, the Tree Committee held a tree planting event at Marathon Park on June 28th - Arbor Day. She discussed the TC's work going forward, including the idea of a joint meeting between the Open Space and Tree Committees to consider options of expanding the scope of the TC's activities. An inventory and assessment of the health of trees on town-owned property should be considered. Consideration of limits on clear-cutting of all properties should be considered as part of town review of proposed development project. A number of towns have adopted ordinances imposing such limits.

c. Chapter 61 properties. No report.

d. Parks Info on social media. No report.

New Business:

a. New proposal for hotel at Lake Nip. The Planning Board met on May 17th to review a new submission by Claremont for construction of a hotel at Lake Nip. The company previously submitted the hotel project for review as part of a much larger development proposal at the Lake Nip site. MEPA comments about the larger project have not been addressed yet.

No public comments were received at this Planning Board meeting. Comments can be submitted at any time. Nicole reviewed the site plans and noted 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 project would result in clear-cutting of 5 acres of forested land. Nicole will draft a letter from the Open Space Committee for submission to the Planning Board that addresses the following general issues:

- Failure to delineate the tree line and areas of clear-cutting.
- Lack of consideration of storm water options that would not involve clear-cutting.
- Absence of low-impact development design that would reduce overall environmental impacts.

Lauren made a motion, seconded by Maureen, and unanimously approved, that Nicole should draft and submit a comment letter to the Planning Board on behalf of the OSC that addresses the concerns noted

above. The Planning's Board's public hearing on this project has been continued to July 19, 2023 at 6 pm.

b. Report from Parkland Steward. Eileen has heard from John Hart that he will be managing construction of the Stiles & Hart project. He is also working on cleaning debris in order to open local rivers to recreational use.

Additional Items for Discussion

The Planning Board also heard a proposal for a large project at the Perkins property. The public hearing for this proposal will be held June 21, 2022.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is considering 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 OSC submitted a letter to the CPC supporting that purchase and continues to support the purchase of these lots even if the parcels are determined not to be suitable for parking.

Commented [FY1]:

Nicole moved and Lauren seconded a motion that Maureen should voice continued support of the OSC for the purchase of these lots at upcoming CPC meetings as this would protect the parkland and the river.

The site visit at Wyman Meadow will be **Wednesday, June 14, at 5:00 pm.**

The next regular committee meeting will be **Thursday, June, 2023 at 7:00 pm.**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney