

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

Attendance:

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

Members absent: Nicole Holmes, Lauren Webb

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

Commented [FY1]: