



Town of Bridgewater **Open Space Committee**

July 18, 2024

2:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86510611919>

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

Meeting ID: 865 106 119 19

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) May 16, 2024
- b) June 20, 2024

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

- a) Report on Meeting with Town Manager
- b) Publicity
 - 1. Carver Pond Photo Shoot on 6/11
 - 2. Other Park Shoots
- c) Wyman Meadow/North Fork Preserve
 - 1. Parking Area
 - 2. Opening Date/Event
- d) Tree Committee Report
- e) Lake Nip Project - Conservation Committee Continuance to 6/27 Meeting

E. New Business

- a) Town River Landing Project - Al Lacerda
- b) Open Space Plan Update Required by April 2025

F. Additional Items for Discussion

G. Adjournment of Meeting

**Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
May 16, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Michael Silvia, Nicole Holmes

Members absent: Lauren Webb, Maureen Minasian

A. Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:04

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment: None

D. Old Business

a. Publicity.

Facebook. Michael Silvia talked with town staff about posting information about parks online. The town wants to make any postings from town committees to monitor the process and content. Michael will discuss with Josh how the process would work.

Videos of parks. Eileen met with Jeff Fowler of BTV about taking short videos of the 6 parklands. She and Michael will meet with Jeff again next week to discuss details of this outreach effort.

b. Wyman Meadow /North Fork Preserve

- i. **Trail and Parking Areas.** Eileen is waiting for confirmation that it is not necessary to go back to the Conservation Commission for permission to apply gravel to the parking area. She is also trying to make contact with the Highway Department to discuss spreading the gravel.
- ii. **Hunting.** Wildlands Trust has decided it will not allow hunting on its property at Wyman Meadow/North Fork Preserve as it is not compatible with the intended use and location of this property. It is not clear what the town's position is on hunting at this or other parklands. Janet Hanson suggested that hunting should only be allowed on parcels that are not promoted as hiking areas. Nicole said that if hunting is allowed in any town parks, it should be clearly noted at the location and in any information posted on line about parklands. This issue may need to go to the Town Council for decision.

c. Tree Committee. An Arbor Day ceremony, which included a tree planting, was held at the Williams School on April 26th. This event was one of the requirements for becoming an official Tree City.

d. Hanson Farm. No report.

e. Chapter 61 properties. No Report.

f. Lake Nip Development Proposal. The Conservation Commission requested that an independent consultant review the project and report back to it. The next ConCom meeting is on 5/23. The developer must also go back to the Planning Board with a new landscaping plan before final approval.

E. New Business:

a. The Iron Works Park Celebration is scheduled for June 20, at 11:00.

b. A landscape architect's draft proposal for the new park on Summer Street at the site of the abandoned gas station, has been circulated for comments via a video. The committee

discussed the comments it will submit, which are favorable towards the overall project with suggestions for more extensive and natural landscaping than shown in the proposed design.

F. Next Meeting. June 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

G. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney

**Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee
June 20, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

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

Members absent: Nicole Holmes

A. Call To Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 7:04

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes: none

C. Public Comment: None

D. Old Business

- a. **Meeting with Town Manager.** Eileen met with Michael Dutton on May 23 to discuss open space issues.
- b. **Publicity.** Eileen, Michael Silvia, Jeff Fowler from BTV, and Al Lacerda, a professional photographer, met at Carver Pond on July 1 to shoot the first park video. Additional park shoots will be scheduled over the next few weeks. Michael has drafted an excellent script describing Carver Pond for use with the video
- c. **Wyman Meadow /North Fork Preserve**
 - i. **Trail and Parking Areas.** Eileen received confirmation from Michael Dutton that he will contact Paul Decosta to ask him to lay gravel/crushed stone at the proposed parking area. Owen Gray laid out markers denoting 3 spaces at the location. Owen and Eileen met at the site on a volunteer day when there were about 10 cars parked along the road. Even with that number of cars the road was unimpeded.
 - ii. **Official opening event.** September 21 or October 5 seem to be good options for an official opening of the new trail. Because the trail isn't suitable for a large group hike, the event should be limited. Eileen will contact town staff about planning for this. Maureen can help with possible involvement with the Boy Scouts.
- d. **Tree Committee.** No report.
- e. **Hanson Farm.** The town is applying for state funds under the Municipal Vulnerability Program for purchase of the Hanson Farm development rights.
- f. **Chapter 61 properties.** No Report.
- g. **Lake Nip Development Proposal.** The Conservation Commission requested that an independent consultant review the project and report back to it on 6/27. The OSC letter sent to the Planning Board will be updated and submitted to the ConCom. The developer must also go back to the Planning Board with a new landscaping plan before final approval.

E. New Business:

- a. **Town River Landing Project.** Eileen anticipated that Al Lacerda, who she invited to this meeting, would attend to talk about the Fire for Effect organization's work at this Spring Street town landing location.
- b. **Open Space Plan Update Required by April 2025.** Eileen met with Planning Department staff on 6/17 to discuss the time frame and process for updating the plan. A separate steering committee will likely be set up to organize and implement this plan update. The OSC should consider if there are particular issues the plan should focus on.

F. Additional Items for Discussion:

Starting with the July meeting, this committee will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm (instead of 7:00 pm).

Lauren Webb was thanked for her service on this committee for the past 3 years. A new member needs to be appointed.

Next Meeting. July 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm.

G. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Hiney