



Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee

February 20, 2025

2:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89900920633>

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) January 23, 2025
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
 - a) Open Space Plan
 - b) Parks Publicity
 - c) Wyman North Fork Conservation Area Trail Expansion
 - d) Tree Committee Report
 - e) Hanson Farm
 - f) Murray-Needs Farm Access
- E. New Business**
 - a) OSC Annual Report
 - b) Downtown Revitalization Plan
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**

DRAFT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES – January 23, 2025

Attendance

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Michael Silvia (by phone), Maureen Minasian

Members absent: Nicole Holmes

- A. **Call To Order:** A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 2:05 pm
- B. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Draft minutes of the December meeting were approved.
- C. **Public Comment:** None

D. Old Business

- a. **Open Space Plan Update.** The state still has not acted on the town's grant application for funding for OS plan development. Eileen noted that the Community Preservation Act Committee has recently completed its draft 5-year plan update, and it includes an Open Space component. Although, both CPC and OS are separately-required plan updates, there will be redundancy in the OS planning following so closely after the CPC exercise. We will explore ways to limit replication.
- b. **Parks Publicity.** Michael reviewed his ideas concerning use of the of the town's YouTube site to upload the 3 parkland videos. He will put this information in an email to Josh for forwarding to IT. Eileen recently learned that the town has a public relations firm under contract and that town committees can take advantage of the firm's services. Josh concurred with this and offered his help with committee outreach efforts.
- c. **Wyman North Fork Conservation Area.** Wildlands Trust has learned from an adjacent landowner that a short section of the new trail on Wildland's property encroaches on the adjacent lot. Wildlands has resolved this with the landowner and will relocate that section of the trail. Eileen spoke with the acting town manager about reimbursing Wildlands for about \$800 in costs of signage for the kiosk and she said this was feasible. There is interest in creating additional trails on the town land at Wyman. Whether new trails can be funded by the Community Preservation Committee will be explored.
- d. **Tree Committee.** Pat Neary said that the committee is considering a public forum in the spring to bring attention to the importance of trees.
- e. **Lake Nip Development Proposal.** The Lake Nip Action Focus Team has appealed to MassDEP the decision of the Conservation Commission to approve the new hotel. A decision is likely to take months.
- f. **Hanson Farm.** The project is moving ahead.
- g. **Reorganization of Open Space Committee.** No report.
- h. **North Street property for sale/Murray Needs access.** It's important that some part of the 7+ acres for sale be considered for better public access, including parking, for the Murray Needs parcel. Eileen is exploring how best to pursue this issue.

E. New Business.

- a. Meeting with acting town manager 1/6/2025. Eileen reported on discussions at this meeting, including possible additional hours for the town's parklands steward and the status of the Summer Street park project.
- b. CPC Plan update. The CPC draft has been completed. It includes a discussion of Legal Protection of Open Space, the next item on this agenda. It appears that the protection is adequate.
- c. Legal Protection of Existing Open Space. See above item.

F. Additional Items for Discussion:

- a. Next meeting is February 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

G. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Hiney, Chair**