



Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee

March 20, 2025

3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84963667951>

Meeting ID: 849 6366 7951

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) February 20, 2025

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

- a) Open Space Plan Update
- b) Parks Publicity
- c) Wyman North Fork Conservation Area Trail Expansion
- d) Tree Committee
- e) Hanson Farm
- f) Murray-Needs Farm Access
 - 1. Status of North Street Property
 - 2. Discussion with Community Preservation Committee
 - 3. Schedule OSC Site Visit

E. New Business

- a) New OSC Members

F. Additional Items for Discussion

a) Next OSC Meeting - April 17, 2:00 pm

G. Adjournment of Meeting

DRAFT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 20, 2025

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

Members absent: Nicole Holmes

- A. Call To Order:** A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 2:07 pm
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Draft minutes of the January 20, 2025 meeting were approved.
- C. Public Comment:** None
- D. Old Business**
- a. **Open Space Plan Update.** Eileen and Maureen met with Shane O’Brien, town planner, on February 3, 2025, to discuss what the town could begin to do in the absence of action by that State to approve our grant application. A steering committee to oversee the process needs to be selected; Shane will initiate this. Subsequent to 2/3, town staff received notice from the state that it has not acted on any planning grant applications and it gave no indication of when it might do so.
 - b. **Parks Publicity.** Michael will connect with Josh about speaking with town IT staff to request that they create a “segmentation” of the town website for Parks and Rec/Open Space where the videos of the parklands would “live.” There would be a way to easily share the videos and other information about town parks with the public.
 - c. **Wyman North Fork Conservation Area.** Eileen has spoken with the chair of the Community Preservation Committee. It appears that creating additional trails on the town-owned land is likely eligible for CPC funds. Eileen asked for a motion to pursue this. Michael moved and Maureen seconded a motion, unanimously approved, to come up with a plan for new trails on the town-owned land and to pursue the potential for CPC funding.
 - d. **Tree Committee.** No report.
 - e. **Hanson Farm.** No report.
 - f. **Murray-Neess Farm Access.** Eileen met with Bob Rulli to discuss the need for better public access, including parking, for the Murray Needs parcel. Adjacent property on North Street is for sale and potential buyers have been planning to build houses on the property. This committee supports gaining better access to Murray-Needs and this may provide this last opportunity to do so from the North Street side. Eileen continues to explore this.
- E. New Business.**
- a. **OSC Annual Report.** Eileen is drafting this and will send it out to committee members.
 - b. **Downtown Revitalization Plan.** The OSC should take a position on this plan at some point, but so far, the public meetings have largely involved discussion of transportation options associated with the Revitalization Plan. Committee members generally agreed that denser development in the downtown area will help preserve open space in other parts of town.
- F. Additional Items for Discussion.** Michael announced that he must resign from the OSC after the end of his 3-year term in July, 2025. He has been hired for a teaching position that is taking a lot of his time. He will attend the March OSC meeting but cannot commit to attend other meetings prior to the end of his 3-year term in July 2025.
- G. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Hiney, Chair