



Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee

March 11, 2026

1:30 PM

Academy Building

Room 201A

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) February 3, 2026
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
 - a) Open Space Plan Update - Status
 - b) Parks Publicity
 - c) Wyman North Fork Conservation Area
 - d) Tree Committee Update
 - e) Community Preservation Committee Update
 - f) Hanson Farm
 - g) Murray-Needs Farm Access
 - h) New OSC Members
- E. New Business**
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
 - a) Next Meeting - April 15th (Suggested Date)
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**

DRAFT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES of February 4, 2026, Meeting

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, John Fitzgerald

A. Call to Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm in Room 201A in the Academy Building.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes. Minutes for the meeting of December 10, 2025, were approved.

C. New Business. None

D. Public Comment: Janet Hanson attended in person; Pat Neary attended on Zoom.

E. Old Business

a. Open Space Plan Update. Shane O'Brien reported on the ongoing development of an update to 2017 OS Plan. The update is required by the State if the town wants to be eligible for certain state grants. Beals & Thomas has been hired to assist town staff in finalizing the plan update. A survey has been posted online to get public feedback. A public meeting will be held at the end of March. The plan will be submitted to the state by the end of June.

b. Parks Publicity. Video shoots will take place in the spring at Wyman and Stiles and Hart.

c. Wyman North Fork Conservation Area. The lack of signage at town parklands is an ongoing issue. There is an immediate need for a sign pointing out the hard-to-see entrance to Wyman North Fork located on Plymouth Street. Public Works might have a generic sign template that could be used. At Kitty Doherty's recent meeting, there was discussion about signs being developed for the new Old State Farm trail. This might serve as the template for other town parks and trails. John will contact Kitty to discuss this possibility.

d. Tree Committee. Pat Neary reported the committee will be meeting in a few days. The date for Arbor Day has not been set yet. The committee continues to discuss replacement of dying trees in the center of town.

e. Community Preservation Committee. No report.

f. Hanson Farm. The development of the public trail on the preserved property is still under discussion. No date has been set yet for the celebratory event that will take place in the spring. An attractive sign has been placed at the Farm acknowledging the preservation restriction on the property.

g. Murray-Needs Farm Access. The MA Division of Fish and Wildlife is exploring undeveloped properties in the area near to this town-owned open space. The adjacent 7-

acre farmland and buildings are still listed for sale. It is probably time to approach the new realtor and the property owner again. It was almost a year ago that this committee approached the owner to see if the town could acquire some way to gain access to Murray-Needs; the owner was not interested in working with the town at that time.

h. **New OSC Members.** Eileen has spoken to a couple of people who might have an interest in joining our committee but neither has been able to commit yet.

E. New Business.

Eileen submitted the OSC Annual Report to the Town Clerk on February 11th.

In mid-January, Eileen received a request from Wildlands Trust to provide a letter of support for a grant request to the state related to a trail, parking area and outlook area at Perkins Preserve, off of Magnolia Way. She submitted a letter as requested, but was unable to get committee approval ahead of time due to the short timeframe to provide it.

F. **Next meeting** – Tentatively March 11 at 1:30; date to be finally determined.

G. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.