



Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee

May 27, 2026

1:00 PM

Academy Building

Room 201a

Virtually: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82740031662>

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) March 11, 2026
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
 - a) Open Space Plan Update
 - b) Parks Publicity
 - c) Wyman North Fork Conservation Area
 - d) Tree Committee
 - e) Community Preservation Committee
 - f) Hanson Farm
 - g) Murray-Needs Farm Access
 - h) Need OSC Members
 - i) Lake Nippenicket
- E. New Business**
 - a) Historic plaque at Sturtevant Pond
 - b) Property off East St/Hiawatha Trail
 - c) Pond at High and Cross Streets
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
 - a) Next Open Space Committee Meeting: Wednesday July 1, 2026 at 1PM
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**

DRAFT OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES of March 11, 2026, Meeting

Committee Members present: Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian, John Fitzgerald,
Others in Attendance: Shane O'Brien, Gina Guasconi, Carlton Hunt

A. Call to Order: A quorum was present. The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm in Room 201A in the Academy Building. (No Zoom option.)

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes. Minutes for the meeting of February 1, 2026, meeting were approved.

C. New Business. None

D. Public Comment. None

E. Old Business

a. Open Space Plan Update. Shane O'Brien reported on the ongoing development of the update to the 2017 Open Space Plan, including responses to the on-line survey developed to get citizen input. An-person public meeting to get additional input will be held on April 16th on the Bridgewater State University campus, possibly with a Zoom connection. A second on-line public meeting will be held in May. The importance of assessing the town's water supplies as part of the open space plan was discussed. The plan will be submitted to the state by the end of June.

b. Parks Publicity. Video shoots will take place first at Wyman North Fork Conservation Area and then Stiles and Hart in the next 1-2 months.

c. Wyman North Fork Conservation Area. A sign on the street is needed at this location. John contacted Kitty Doherty to learn about the signs that will be created for the new Old State Farm Trail on Summer Street. Gina Guasconi reported that she is involved in getting group together to consider standardized signage throughout the town parks and recreation areas. She noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission should be involved in any discussions about signage. The language and design for the street sign at Wyman was discussed; John will proceed with creation of a sign format. The process of approval will still need to be determined.

d. Tree Committee. No report.

e. Community Preservation Committee. Gina and Carlton Hunt reported that the CPC is still trying to find out why elements of this project were never completed and what the steps will be to finish the project. They have met with the Town Manager about this.

Gina also reported about the Jenny Lind Park on Cherry Street that has been discussed with the Parks and Recreation Commission recently. This project has not been discussed by the OSC previously but Carlton advised there is a plan to create trails at this location that we should be aware of.

f. Hanson Farm. The celebratory event is tentatively scheduled for April 13th.

g. Murray-Needs Farm Access. Acquiring a means of public access to this parcel is still being discussed.

h. New OSC Members. No report.

E. New Business. None.

F. Next meeting Tentatively April 15th at 1:30.

G. The meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm 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-

Page 2 of 3

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.