

***Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts***

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MINUTES

Open Space Committee
April 24th, 2019, 7:00 pm
Weymouth Town Hall
Third Floor Conference Room
75 Middle Street, 3rd Floor
Weymouth, MA 02189

Members Present: Andrew Hultin (Chair)

Karen Graham
Dave Henley
Kathy Swain
Tania Taranovski

Member Absent: Joe Haddock, Wayne Mathews

1. Approval of the minutes. Motion made to approve the minutes by the Chair. Second Dave, minutes approved.
2. New Member Introductions – Tania Taranovski is introduced as a new member. Wayne Mathews is another new member but is absent.
3. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update – Bob Luongo gave an update on where things are with the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Horsley Whitten Group has been contracted to update the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Horsley Whitten has created a website, Weymouthoutdoors.com, and an online survey to gather public input. The Town will hold a public forum on May 16th, 7:00pm at the High School Humanities Center. This forum will be facilitated by Horsley Whitten and will include an overview of the OSRP, progress made since the last plan, and a break out session where small groups will discuss and prioritize open space issues. Bob Luongo encourages all members of the Open Space Committee and other town committees to attend and participate in this forum. The committee asked Bob about what projects they can be looking at and how they are brought to the committee. Bob explained that the committee can choose its own projects to look at and recommend.
4. Spring Open Space Project Overview - Andrew Updated the committee on the 6 projects that will hopefully be completed by the summer. Some of these projects are already underway or scheduled to begin soon. The committee looked at local trail maps created

by Lars Ahlzen and recommends having him develop maps for some of our open spaces. They are also interested in hearing from him about how our trails could be better suited for mountain biking.

5. Landing Canoe Launch Overview - Committee members were presented with an overview of the Landing Canoe Launch. The Canoe Launch was finished in 2012 but has limited recreational opportunities and has issues with cars driving on the grass. Andrew proposed several improvements including delineated parking, park benches, an extended walking trail and an improved launch. The Committee was supportive of the idea to revitalize the landing canoe launch, as well a kayak rental program and the possibility of a walking path to the landing. Karen graham suggested looking at the parking arrangement and how it could be better delineated and arranged, the square gravel lot currently leads to haphazard parking.
6. Events- Masslands conference- the committee discussed things they learned at the land trust conference last March. Community Clean-up day April 27- several members are planning to help out with our community clean-up day, organizing efforts along the Back River. Climate change symposium- Several members will be attending the south shore climate change symposium coming up next week on May 9th.
7. Community Comment - Maintenance of trees in Town- Kathleen Swain brought up two tree related grant programs that the town could look into; Greening the Gateway Cities program and DCR's Urban & community forestry grant. Kathleen and other members expressed concern with the Town's maintenance of its trees and would like to see a more proactive approach to maintaining trees the town has acquired in its open spaces. Dave Henley had spoken to John MacLeod and would like him to speak to the committee about this issue at a future meeting. Power line lands- The Committee has asked about access to lands owned by the power companies, these lands represent a large portion of open space in Weymouth and often abut Town owned land as is the case with Gagnon Park, Cranbury pond, Cadman conservation area. Wessagusset woodlot- The committee will begin to look at the Wessagusset woodlot and the improvements proposed by Doug Smock. Doug will present his ideas at the next meeting in June. He has also presented to the historic commission.
8. Next Meeting – June 12th
9. Adjournment



Andrew Hultin, Chair



Date