

***Town of Weymouth  
Massachusetts***

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**MINUTES**

Open Space Committee  
June 12th, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Weymouth Town Hall  
Second Floor Kelly Room  
75 Middle Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Weymouth, MA 02189

Members Present: Andrew Hultin (Chair)

Karen Graham  
Dave Henley  
Al Donovan  
Tania Taranovski

Member Absent: Joe Haddock, Wayne Mathews, Kathleen Swain

1. Approval of the minutes. Motion made to approve the minutes by the Chair. Second Dave, minutes approved.
2. New Member Introductions – Al Donovan is introduced as a new member.
3. Wessagusset Woodlot – presented by Doug Smock and Mark Schneider- Mark is a retired history teacher and serves on the Historical commission. Doug is a local resident who has studied up on the history and is advocating for improvements to the Wessagusset woodlot. Mark had met with Doug to discuss options for a memorial marker (market) at the site and the historic commission has voted to support the placement (planting) of a memorial marker (market) at the site. Mark explained (explains) the historical significance of the site, the location the first settlement and the place where the Massachusett tribe had lived before (as well as) the confrontation between Myles Standish (miles standing) and the Native Americans that resulted in the death of several natives. Mark's (Marks) original proposal was to include six story boards telling the history of Weymouth, including the Massachusett natives. Doug is advocating for one sign that explains all the history as well as general improvements including improvements to the trails and along the street. Doug also explained (explains) that the Wessagusset Woodlot is not actually the site of the original colony but is close by and represents a great opportunity to tell Weymouth's history. Andrew asked about the possibility of a (the) local school group visiting the site as a historical fieldtrip, Al Donovan suggests that a "quest" program could be incorporated. Al also

suggested that a broader historical map of Weymouth could be developed with the historic commission and that we could consider registering this site as an official historic site through the national parks service. The Open Space committee unanimously agrees to support and work on this project.

4. Spring Open Space Projects Update- Andrew updated (Updated) the committee on the spring open space projects. Andrew explained (explains) that woodbine road and Cavern Rock are largely complete, efforts at House Rock Park and Bradford Torrey are underway. An intern has been working on the trails while DPW has worked on entrances and some of the heavier trail work. Maps for cavern rock and Bradford Torrey are being developed by Lars Ahlzen, who has developed maps for Wampanatuck (Wampanatuck) State Park and other sites on the cape. Al asked about efforts to connect these open spaces to each other, Andrew explained that that is a long term goal. Andrew explained (explains) that work on the great pond trail has not started (really begun yet), because (and that) there are some regulatory things to figure out. Tania and Karen stated that there are some negative uses there currently including partying and off road vehicles. Andrew stated that the hope is that increased use of the site will lead to less negative uses. Andrew explained (explains) that the trails intern will likely be utilized as a staff through the summer for trail maintenance.
5. Open Space Plan Update- Andrew explained that there is not much to update on the open space plan. Horsley & Whitten has largely completed its public participation process with 748 responses to the online survey and 60 people attending the public forum. There will likely be one more public forum where a draft action plan will be presented.
6. Community Comment- Dave commented that \$10,000 of the state budget had been approved for the Town of Weymouth for something relating to Fore River waterfront access. Andrew will look into this and report back. Andrew talked about some next steps for the committee and hoping to have the committee steer its own direction. One task for the committee could be to develop a ranking criteria for an open space that is being considered for the town.
7. Next Meeting – sometime in the fall
8. Adjournment

  
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Andrew Hultin, Chair

10/16/2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date