

**Town of Bridgewater Open Space Committee**  
**February 17, 2021, 7:00 pm**  
**Final Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members present:** Eileen Hiney, Chair, Maureen Minasian; Lauren Webb, Nicole Holmes

**Members absent:** Kevin Mandeville

**Guests:** Pat Neary, Melissa Ramondetta, Mark Peterson

**Call To Order:** A quorum was present. The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order at 7:10 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The draft December 17, 2021 minutes sent to committee members will be considered at the next meeting.

**Public Comment:** No comments were made. Guests were invited to comment on agenda items when they are discussed and did so as may be noted below.

**New Business:**

- **Submission of letters of support for grant applications: 1) Old State Farm Trail; 2) Stiles & Hart.** Eileen requested a vote to ratify the submission of these letters. The first was requested by Kitty Doherty, Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater, for the Old State Farm Trail; the second was requested by Steve Solbo, Environmental Planner, for State funds for Stiles & Hart. Because the January meeting was cancelled, Eileen sent drafts of the letters to committee members for their review and approval prior to submitting them by the January deadlines. Maureen moved to ratify submission of the letters; Lauren seconded. It was unanimously approved. Eileen has received another request for a support letter for the Town's application for Community Preservation Act funds for Stiles & Hart. It may be necessary to call a special meeting to get committee approval for this if the deadline is before the March 17<sup>th</sup> OSC meeting
- **Committee Annual Report.** The Committee's Annual Report was submitted to the Town Clerk. Eileen noted that Maureen suggested that our goals for 2022 should include protection of trees. This will be discussed under the Tree Committee Report agenda item.
- **Revisions to zoning ordinances.** Recodification of BW's Zoning Ordinances has been underway for a couple of years. Melissa Ramondetta has brought issues in the revisions related to open space to the attention of this committee. Eileen has attended a couple of Planning Board meetings where the revisions have been discussed and will continue to monitor the process.

**Old Business**

- **Wyman Meadows Town Parkland.** Eric Boyer and Mitch Hennings, of Wildlands Trust, presented a map depicting a possible trail starting at the town conservation property and extending for about one mile through the Wildland Trust's North Fork Preserve. A series of slides Mitch took during a recent walk through the North Fork area highlighted the scenic and natural resource value of the property and the general location where the trail might be developed. Weather permitting, a site visit at this site will be scheduled soon.
- **Review of website information for Town Parklands.** Lauren Webb has updated the descriptions of the 6 Town Parklands that were drafted by the NRTB 20 years ago. The descriptions are currently on the town web site but are not easy to find and out-of-date. Committee members were asked to review the drafts and submit their comments to everyone on the committee. After the descriptions are finalized, the next step will be to work with town staff to get the revised information posted at places on the town website where it will be easy for the public to locate it.

- **Lake Nippenicket Petition: *Discontinuance of the Abandoned Portion of Lakeside Drive.*** Eileen noted that at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the committee discussed the possibility that a proposal by Claremont Companies to build a restaurant on the Lake will be resubmitted. Committee members agreed that Lake Nippenicket is an important Town open space resource and our committee should review any proposals that might impact the Lake and take appropriate action. Claremont Companies has submitted a request for the town to abandon a portion of Lakeside Drive. That request is under consideration by the Town Council Community and Economic Development Subcommittee. Eileen asked if the committee wants to comment on that request. Nicole made the following motion, which was seconded by Maureen, and unanimously approved:

***The Bridgewater Open Space Committee should take action, including submission of written or oral comments, for any project under review by the Town Council or other town committees, if the project is inconsistent with natural resource protection of Lake Nippenicket, an important Open Space resource.***

- **Tree Committee Report.** Nicole Holmes reported that there has been no Tree Committee activity in recent months.
- **Hanson Farm update.** A meeting with the Town Manager, Community & Economic Development Director, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, and Eileen Hiney was held on February 16. The purpose of the meeting was to identify a plan of action for this project identifying steps to take and responsible parties.

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 17, 2022 @7:00 pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Eileen Hiney