

# *TOWN OF LUNENBURG*

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## OPEN SPACE AD HOC COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

September 26, 2018

**Meeting Posted:** Yes

**Place:** Ritter Memorial Building, 960 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, MA

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Members Present:** Brandon Kibbe, David Prokowiew, Bob Pease, Richard Brockelman, Sarah Cammer

**Absent:** Dennis Mannone

**Also Present:** Karin Menard, Ashley Maillet

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

**Topic I.** Minutes of 8/22/18 were reviewed and approved.

**Topic II. Committee Membership was discussed.** Presently we have a six (6) member committee with one (1) vacancy designated for the Conservation Commission. We have two (2) seats for Conservation; one for Planning. All members present intend to remain active; however, we could modify our membership to include an additional At-Large Member. Members present discussed suggesting modifying our committee membership from two (2) Conservation Commission members to two (2) At-Large Members.

Ashley Maillet was introduced. A. Maillet is interested in wildlife related activities. She has a Bachelor's in Biology and works as a molecular technologist. She asked what the expectations of members are and received information from the group.

A summary of the Open Space Ad-Hoc Committee's duties are included as discussed: The mission is to do an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OS&RP). It is a 5-year plan and the Committee had a goal to get it done by Thanksgiving. As of this meeting, there were two more scheduled meetings, one in October and one in November. After the OS&RP is drafted, historically, the Ad-Hoc Committee is involved in Chapter 61 review. Chapter 61 land is under land which the Town has the Right of First Refusal (ROFR), which the Town has a process for reviewing, and the Ad-Hoc Committee looks at the land in regard for how it achieves objectives of the OS&RP. Having the OS&RP that the Committee is updating and drafting (from the Town's earlier OS&RP) allows the Town eligibility for other grant programs that rely

on the open space connection. The OS&RP does not have to be approved at town meeting; it goes to Town Boards for approval. Major edits would make us reconvene. Typically this plan is done at 5-year intervals, but through discussion with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), B. Kibbe confirmed we can have a 7-year plan instead of a 5-year plan.

**A Motion to change Committee was made.** The Motion was to remove a Conservation Commission member and add on an At-Large Member; it was seconded, and all were in favor. D. Prokowiew will take to the Planning Board. The position will likely be advertised and the candidates will need to be approved by the Planning Board.

The Committee discussed voting within the Committee. Often, committee members from other boards are rotating as they can't always make the meetings. The Committee is comfortable with their participation as members.

### **Topic III-Compiled Survey Results**

B. Kibbe presented the Open Space survey results. The Survey was sent out with tax bills, and available electronically. K. Menard compiled all of the results. There were 360 paper copies returned and 78 surveymonkey.com responses.

Residents were asked: "Why live here?" The leading response was the rural atmosphere (70% of respondents), followed by the school system.

Residents were asked to assess needs area, along with stating the years of residency. The areas of needs selected by residents included, in order from greatest to least selected: Trail maps, hiking, conservation, skiing, beach improvement. Write in comments in this area included accessibility, better sidewalks and trail discussions.

Residents responded to the question "Who Needs Conservation?" with a response that it was needed by every age group (adults, seniors, teens, young children). Comments suggested more recreation options and sidewalks would be helpful.

Surveys showed that residents strongly believe there is a great importance in resource protection and many residents selected that they would support town-driven acquisition, voting for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and that they would vote for zoning changes to protect resources.

According to the survey, the best ways to reach respondents and communicate about recreation include using the newspaper, websites, and mailing.

The resources used by residents, ranked from greatest percentage of respondent to the least number were: Library, Pick Your Own Produce, town conservation and trails, paved bike paths, gazebo, walking/jogging areas, playgrounds and boating. Respondents reported, in high percentages, repeat use of existing sidewalks, where available; the public library; and Town conservation and boating for their recreational needs. Categories where interest was expressed included ice fishing and ice skating.

#### **Topic IV/V: Discussion of Trends and Draft of Needs/Plan**

Needs identified, and potential ideas for a plan were identified by the Committee through discussion. These are listed below:

1. *Trail maps*-Several groups are working on a regional trail.
2. *Improve walkability and accessibility*-Sidewalks, bike trail—A biking map of Lunenburg/Sidewalk Map would be useful; perhaps a community agreement could be made to set up a fund for sidewalks as people build.
3. *Walking trail, exercise trail in Marshall Park*-This would benefit adults, kids, seniors.
4. *Create hubs of activity* for conservation lands, allowing people diverse recreation that is connected and walkable.
5. *Beach improvements*-Need: Parking, lake frontage (could it cost about \$500,000?).
6. *Accessibility, ADA grant discussion*- A Committee member reported that the Town has an ADA grant that is due shortly, and it was brought up at a Select Board meeting that this Committee may have information about ADA needs for conservation for the next meeting. However, since the Committee is still drafting the OS&RP, the Committee cannot produce a deliverable about accessibility for the next Select Board meeting or in time for this grant. Nevertheless, the document may help for future grant applications.
7. *Re-allocating resources to serve needs highlighted by respondents*: West Street parcel (Trail Riders) and Pleasant Street farm (hay) were brought up. There was discussion about using parcels and transferring them to different parties (rec/conservation) for different needs. This would need to be a case-by-case discussion for each site of interest.
8. *Pick your own produce*. A community garden could serve this purpose, perhaps through the Eagle House.

#### **Topic VI: Discuss the Value of a Charrette**

After some discussion of the needs and ideas, which occurred simultaneously, the Committee discussed the value of a planning charrette. In order to make a representative set of goals and objectives to incorporate into the OS&RP, it would be helpful to have additional discussion of the Survey results within the community and the Committee. Additionally, the Committee has viewed maps as they have been updated, but the charrette will allow us to view all of them along with the community and guide the OS&RP that is drafted. The Committee agreed to schedule a charrette for October 16 @7pm. The next Open Space meeting, post-charrette, is October 24.

#### **Topic VII: Review Revisions to Assigned Plan Sections**

Section 3-done; Section 4-Almost done, will have for next meeting; Section 1-D. Prokowiew and B. Kibbe will work on accomplishments of last plan; goals and objectives, survey results at next meeting. The goals and objectives and survey results will be discussed at the charrette on 10/16/2018 and inform that section of the OS&RP. Section 5-Conservation and Recreation Interests-Parks will be looking at their aspect of the OS&RP and thinking about where parks are needed and what types. K. Menard will be looking into it and seeing what is there, and describe where the deficiencies are.

**Topic VIII: Review Maps-** Maps will be reviewed at the Charrette.

**Topic IX: ADA self-evaluation discussion-** The ADA portion of the OS&RP was discussed. The ADA appendix to the OS&RP has three parts: Coordinator (Part I), program accessibility (Part II), and employment practices (Part III). This applies to parks and conservation and does not need to address school lands. The Plan we have presently is acceptable for conservation, but the Town needs to make updates for the Lane, Cowdry and Robb's Hill properties. There is no expectation that conservation lands are fully accessible, but improvements can, and should, be conducted. There was a discussion of how this information pertains to parks. For the park ADA compliance, some items need to be updated and there were action items. For the OS&RP, we need to make a list of items that need to be improved.

Some items that have been accomplished were discussed: There was a missing handicap accessible viewing ramp in Cowdry ~2014, done by Snow Riders. Committee members asked if it is accessible to the ramp? It was reported that it is fully ramped up to the viewing station. The ADA portion as it relates to schools and conservation was discussed. It may be that the schools may already have their plan with an ADA individual/employee. We should see if we can get it.

Following this discussion, a review of the next items to be accomplished was conducted. B. Kibbe will look into scheduling the charrette, and the next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> will include reviewing drafts of the sections of the Plan and the maps. The meeting was called to close, seconded, and adjourned at 9:04PM.

Documents used at meeting:

08/22/18 Minutes