

# Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473  
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
**Open Space Committee**  
Phone: (978) 874-7414

## Minutes of Meeting – April 4, 2023 – Rm 222

In attendance: Sue Millman, Amy Tetrault, Isaiah Grigos, Heather Billings, Jodi Snyder, Marie Auger  
Tracy Murphy, Town Planner

Other Attendees: Gregg Buckman

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1. Approval of minutes: Motion made by A Tetrault/I Grigos to accept the minutes from January 17, 2023

Discussion: None

The OSRP Committee voted 5-0-0 to approve the minutes.

2. Map project status report and next steps:

A. Tetrault reported that the Hagar Park Committee will keep the trail spurs that dead end in the park. There are signs posted when a hiker gets to private property and the spurs will be a different color on the trail map. A. Tetrault will reach out to the Hager Park committee to confirm information recent improvements or additions to the trail system for the park, get clarification on the Park's western side of Route 140 and inquire about posting waypoints throughout the entire Park.

H. Billings clarified that the property owner to the northwest of Crocker Pond does allow some hiking/biking but that area should not be included on the trails map because there is no "official" permission in place. Because Crocker Pond has some new trails, someone familiar will need to walk them with GPS so that Kayla Kress (MRPC, GIS Specialist) can integrate them into the existing trails layer. A. Tetrault suggested a Girl or Boy Scout project and I. Grigos will follow up on this idea.

3. Spring Trail Cleanup Day – June 3, 2023

Chris Mossman has agreed to be the team leader at Hagar Park with Don Siefert at Crocker Pond. The Committee discussed the trail behind the elementary school that was reported to need clearing. Sue Millman will follow up on this and report to the group at the May meeting to decide if the trail will be added to the cleanup day. Sue Millman brought up trails in the sub-divisions needing work. She has volunteered to organize a group to clean up the trails at Old Mill Estates.

Information will be needed ahead of time regarding if any chainsaw work will be necessary. Volunteers will be limited to 20 people and fliers seeking help will be posted in numerous places. The 2023 Spring Trails cleanup day will follow essentially the same format as last year's.

Scenic Road Bylaw follow up: T. Murphy spoke to Josh Hall, DPW Director who also serves as the Tree Warden. He relayed the information that any tree that is removed in the public way requires a Tree Hearing. The exception to this is if the tree poses risk to the public. The OSC discussed the need to preserve the historic nature of many roads and protect their stonewalls. The discussion included the possibility of developing a stonewall bylaw. T Murphy will forward a stonewall bylaw and application from another town to edit to fit Westminster's needs for a future meeting. G Buckman commented that the Historic Commission would likely be happy to participate in this effort.

Chapter Lands Update: T Murphy reported that the Assessor's office sends out renewals typically in July/August and they are due back by the end of October. The Assessor reports that she seldom has a property owner that fails to turn in the renewal paperwork.

Training Opportunity: J Snyder announced a training in April to help identify endangered species.

For next meeting: T Murphy will forward a Stonewall bylaw from Boxborough MA, edit the waiver and coordinate borrowing tools from various town departments for the cleanup day.

- 4: Next Meeting: The OSC w have a fixed schedule and will meet on the first Monday of every month at 7pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 2, 2023 at 7pm in room 222.
- 5: Motion to adjourn, H. Billings/M. Auger (5-0-0)  
Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Murphy  
Town Planner