

RECEIVED
2021 JUL 21 AM 9:41
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

Town of Westminster

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

APPROVED
7-20-2021

Minutes of Meeting – June, 10 2021 – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Attended: Jody Snyder, Amy Tisdale Tetreault, Sue Millman, Isiah Grigos, Marie Auger and Town Planner Stephen Wallace. Absent: Matt Landry.

The meeting started with the appointment of officers. Sue Millman will be the Committee Chair and Jody Snyder will be the Vice Char.

From there, the Committee discussed the six goals found in the Town’s 2021 Open Space & Recreation Plan and the actions items that fall under the Committee’s jurisdiction.

The action items revolving around funding open space generated a good deal of discussion. Those action items include creating a stabilization fund for open space acquisition, having the Town adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and, of last resort, increasing the amount of money that the Town deposits into the Conservation Commission fund every year at Town Meeting.

Other action items discussed was working with our regional land trusts on helping the Town educate landowners regarding the benefits of preserving their land as open space and enrolling their land in the State’s Chapter 61 reduced taxation program. This education could take the form of brochures left in the Tax Collector and Assessor offices and posted on the Town’s website.

The Committee also discussed holding an annual trail maintenance day for Hagar Park and Crocker Pond. Helpful for this effort would be having an up-to-date list of the Town’s civic organizations. Town Planner has such a list, but it is ten years old. Town Planner will send this list to the Committee members for updating. Amy will be meeting with the Hager Park Committee tomorrow and will mention this idea to them.

It was also suggested that the Town recruit the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to help map the Town’s various trail systems using GPS. The Commission’s Trail Coordinator, Sheri Bean, will be invited to an upcoming Committee meeting.

Marie and Isiah suggested inviting Land Protection Consultant Janet Morrison to our next meeting to discuss land protection priorities.

Town Planner will work with the Town’s IT staff to create an all-encompassing Recreation web page that can be linked to from the front page of the Town’s website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.