

# Town of Westminster

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

## Minutes of Meeting – March 05, 2024

In attendance: Amy Tetrault, Isaiah Grigos, Jodi Snyder, Marie Auger

Absent: Sue Millman, Heather Billings

J. Snyder called meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

### 1. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by J. Snyder to accept the minutes from Feb 06, 2024, motion seconded by I. Grigos. The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

### 2. National Trails Day & Local Trails Day

M. Auger mentions that National Trails Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>, and that the committee should be present at a local event held at Wachusett Mountain for it to spread information about Westminster trails & local trails day.

I. Grigos suggests handing out MRPC created trail maps for the area at this event, M. Auger says she would prefer getting Westminster specific trail maps to pass out.

J. Snyder proposes holding local trails day in the fall as opposed to in the summer to clean trails before winter, and to better focus resources on the Therriault LAND Grant property

### 3. Stone Wall Bylaw

I. Grigos informs the other committee members that the stone wall bylaw draft is too broad, and that specific roads need to be identified in the final version of the bylaw.

A. Tetrault and M. Auger suggest listing all town owned right of ways in the bylaw so it applies to all stone walls adjacent to town owned property.

J. Snyder agrees with them and wants the bylaw to be as broadly applicable to protect as many walls as possible and wants to list all town owned ROWs as well.

All board members agree they would like further guidance from the Town Planner on this matter to discuss if this is doable.

### 4. Small Projects Initiative

R. Forgues updates the committee on the status of their requests for funding under the Small Projects Initiative, and tells them that the proposals are currently being reviewed by the Select Board.

### 5. Old Ashburnham Turnpike

I. Grigos talks about the costs associated with pursuing the route of a title search for Old Ashburnham Turnpike, and that it may not be in the Town's best interest to spend the money in the event the road was given up via easements to the abutters.

A. Tatrault believes the Town may have a stronger claim to the land than they think, as it was previously a main road or "turnpike". Exclaims concerns about further deforestation and development in the area.

I. Grigos suggests looking into the titles and deeds of adjacent properties at the registry of deeds to better understand the rights to the land abutters may have.

#### 6. Golf Course

M. Auger wants to support potential buyers of the old golf course that intend to keep it as open space/recreational space. Believes the town should make another push to purchase the property and keep it open as a municipal golf course, similar to Gardner MA.

J. Snyder motioned to adjourn the meeting. I. Grigos seconded. All in favor, vote carried (4-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next meeting: April 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM in room 222.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ryan Forgues  
Admin Assistant