

Town of Westminster

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

*Approved
9-21-2021*

Minutes of Meeting – August, 31 2021 – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Attended: Jodi Snyder, Amy Tisdale Tetrault, Sue Millman, Heather Billings, special guest Sheri Bean – Trails Coordinator for the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), and Town Planner Stephen Wallace.
Absent: Isiah Grigos and Marie Auger.

The meeting started with approval of the meeting minutes for July 20, 2021.

The first order of business was hearing a presentation from MRPC Trails Coordinator Sheri Bean. Sheri gave a brief history of MRPC’s trails coalition and the work they do. She discussed various mapping projects, mapping tools for trail planning, trail grants, etc. We talked with her about various ideas we have for trail projects in the future, including bushwhacking some trails through Conservation Commission lands that currently do not have trails.

From there, the Committee discussed its municipal entity outreach assignments. Heather gave us the details of when Isiah met with the Crocker Pond Commission, and Sue told us about her meeting with the Agricultural Commission earlier this month. Both Commissions appear to be receptive to our mission, and the Agricultural Commission agreed to write us a letter of support for our open space stabilization fund initiative. The remaining outreach assignments are as follows:

- Hager Park Committee – Amy
- Conservation Commission – Jodi
- Recreation Commission – Town Planner

The Town Planner provided an update on two open space-related matters: the Town Planner has prepared a draft policy on how to handle Chapter land withdrawal requests that is currently under review by Town Counsel. Lastly, the Town was approached by the owner of 49 Bragg Hill Road about donating a portion of her backland to the Town for conservation purposes. Her land abuts a large parcel of Town-owned conservation land and contains a segment of the Mid-State Trail. Town Counsel is currently reviewing the property deeds and will advise further.

The Committee will meet next on Tuesday night September 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Our special guest will be Emma Elsworth, Executive Director of the Mount Grace Land Trust.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.