

# Open Space Committee

Thursday April 24, 2025

## MINUTES

- I. **Attendance and Approval of March 25, 2025 minutes:** Meeting called to order at 5:00pm. Present were members Lucy Abisalih, Sue Simmons, Sean Wright, Sandy Venner, and Mary Glennon. Motion made and seconded by Sue and Mary and voted to approve March 25, 2025 minutes.
- II. **Trail Activities**
  - **Marking new Marshview-McLaren Trail ends:** Sue reminded the committee that since Greenbelt holds the Conservation Restriction for the Perkins Conservation Area, they should be informed of intent to redirect the trail. Lucy will ask if Greenbelt wishes to be involved and check if wetland crossings need to be reviewed.
  - **Tree Removal Update:** Sean will remove any of the recent down trees that he is able.
  - **Trail maintenance and improvement opportunities:** Mary reported what she has learned from researching grant for trail improvement/creation activity: 1) Mass Trails grants up to \$100,000 and requires a 20% reimbursement, can include funds for design and engineering; 2) Essex Natural Heritage grants currently on hold; and 3) American Trails grants \$2-10,000. Mary will follow up with all three. Sean noted that Jamaco uses race entry fees to support local causes and will check if they would help with the match. Lucy will update NE Trail Works on our efforts.
- III. **Collaboration with Other Entities:**
  - **Greenbelt** has scheduled a stewardship assessment walk for the Hoyt property on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and committee members are welcome to attend.
  - **Neighbors for Nature** is sponsoring a community walk at the Beaver Pond Reservation
- IV. **Next Steps for Open Space and Recreation Plan:** Lucy has drafted RFP language for the consultant for the OSRP update. She has spoken to Barrett, Inc., Horsley Whitten and others who have expressed an interest. Sandy and Sue made and seconded motion which was supported by all that Lucy send the RFP to the consultants she has vetted. It was agreed a booth at Old Home Days would provide an opportunity to engage the public. Neighbors for Nature and Green Energy groups will be asked if they wish to join OSC at the booth.
- V. **FY'26 budget and Trail Improvement Article:** \$424 remains in the OSC line item account.
- VI. **Correspondence:** Lucy received a resignation letter from Martin Hanlon as he has moved out of Town. It was also sent to the Select Board who were asked to announce the vacancy.
- VII. Next meeting will be May 27<sup>th</sup>. Adjourned at 6:15pm.

Sandra Venner  
May 22, 2025