

# NATICK OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:00 PM  
Zoom meeting – Remote Participation

## Minutes

Members Present: Chair, Martin Kessel, Doug Drenik, Mary Stuart, David Ordway, Doug Shephard, David Lodding

Guest: Claire Rundelli, Planner/Conservation Agent

### Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2023

Approved 5-0-1

### Upcoming Events

- Mass. Open Space Conference, webinars, Thursdays in February: Martin spoke about today's webinar: "Tips and Tools for Landowner Outreach". Titles for upcoming sessions are "Land Conservation & Restoration Initiatives for Climate Resiliency" and "BioMap, the Latest and Greatest".
- 2023 Mass. Land Conservation Conference, Worcester, March 25: This is primarily an in-person event. Details are available on the website.

### Updates

- *Trails & Forest Stewardship Committee*: Doug D. reported that Mary Hudson is making good progress with updating the Trail Steward program.
- *5 Auburn Street RFP*: Martin reported that on Saturday the Select Board interviewed two of the four applications. The MetroWest Collaborative proposed 32 affordable units. The Natick Affordable Housing Trust proposed 23 senior 55+ affordable units. Both proposals preserve the open space between the building and Eliot Street. Neighbors appear to favor the 23-unit proposal.
- *Conservation Commission Beaver Policy*: Claire reported that the ConCom reviewed a Decision Tree draft. They are working to find a mechanism to have more flexibility regarding breaching the dams.

### Planning Board Updates

- *Cluster bylaw*: There was no update on the drafting process, but an article is expected to be submitted for Spring Town Meeting.
- *Assisted Living (ALoop) proposal*: Martin described an emerging Assisted Living proposal for 200 Pond Road. The Planning Board will consider a zoning change next Wednesday. The land parcel straddles the Natick/Wellesley border. The proposed facility site is in Natick and is surrounded by large areas of Conservation Restricted land. The proposal would place a high density development in the midst of protected open space. Further discussion was tabled until more details of the proposal are known.

In Person Meeting Return

Martin will be away for our regular March meeting date, so he will send an email poll regarding preferences for our March meeting. Claire will follow legislation concerning hybrid meetings and will try to reserve the Select Board meeting room for our April meeting.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): Proposed Bylaw

Members discussed the proposal, including Terri's annotations. No formal action was taken, but Claire will report the committee's comments and basic support to the drafting group.

Earth Day All Around Natick, April 29-30

Will be the same format as 2022, with the addition of tables on the Common as in former years. Members discussed tentative plans including a joint table with TaFS and a trail walk.

BioMap 3

Martin discussed changes in the new version of the state's BioMap, which maps hotspots for rare and endangered species. Several areas in Natick have been removed and the Charles River area has been expanded, but he expects these changes are results of methodology, rather than actual changes in the ecosystem.

Open space inventory follow-up

Tabled

Goals for 2023

Tabled

Motion to adjourn by Doug S., seconded by Doug D.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes approved 3/13/2023