

NATICK OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:00pm
Hybrid Meeting – In Person Town Hall & Remote participation option

Minutes

Members Present: Chair, Martin Kessel, Doug Drenik, Doug Shepard, Terri Evans, Mary Stuart, David Lodding

Guest: Claire Rundelli, Planner/Conservation Agent

Martin started the meeting recognizing that this was our very first in-person meeting after just about three years of remote meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are glad to be resuming in-person meetings with the hybrid option which will be available until at least 2025.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2023

Approve 4-0-1

2. Updates

a. Trails & Forest Stewardship Committee

Doug D. mentioned the Town Meadow seeding project scheduled for April 22nd, 29th & 30th. Recently, Lisa Stanley & Bill R. did work on the trails installing numbers on trees corresponding to numbers on town maps to provide orientation for navigating Natick Trails. The Eagle Scout boardwalk project that parallels Woodland St. is getting started and is getting approval from the Scout group leadership. Other scout project ideas are at Pickerel Pond and the Timothy Coolidge Hill ridge grade.

b. 5 Auburn St RFP

The Select Board voted 3-2 to award the project to The Metro West Collaborative; however, neighborhood residents are opposed to the number of proposed units.

c. Natick Trails Forum

Claire reported that the forum met this afternoon at 3pm. A core group of representatives met and discussed Natick's trails and the regional area trails. They are planning on opening the meeting to a larger group in June. Some of the topics discussed included the Aqueduct trail, powerline trail, and continuing the alignment with regional trails.

d. New trail maps

Claire stated there are new trail maps uploaded to the town website, and the updated maps will be installed in the trail kiosks.

e. 60 (R) Harwood Road

The parcel is finally owned by the ConCom. The town signed an order of taking and it was recorded in the Registry of Deeds on March 27.

- f. Other Updates
MEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan
3. Planning Board updates (other than Cluster Bylaw)
Terri said that it's been relatively quiet time. However, 0 Pleasant St. cluster development has been voted to deny without prejudice because of the long timeline the development proposed.
 4. In Person Meeting Return
For future meetings, we will continue the hybrid meeting set up.
 5. Earth Day All Around Natick, April 29-30
Eco-Natick's calendar of events www.econatick.org. Saturday, April 29th we will have an info table on the Common. Martin is leading a walk on Saturday 2-3pm at Pickerel Pond (meet at Erie Dr. trailhead). On Sunday, April 30th 9am-12pm, there will be work on Town Forest Restoration. Sunday, 1pm-3pm, Claire is leading a Town Forest walk.
 6. Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles
 - Article 15 Capital Equipment and Improvement (Town Administrator)- Item B4:
South Natick Dam & Grove Park design \$85,000 (new)
Voted to endorse 6-0-0
 - Article 20 Amend the Town of Natick By-Laws: Create New Committee
[Community Preservation Committee] (Town Administrator)
Voted 4-0-1 at our March 13, 2023 meeting. FinCom voted 13-0-0
 - Article 26 Amend Zoning Bylaw: Open Space Cluster Development
(Planning Board)
Voted to endorse 6-0-0
 - Article 30 Expansion of Assisted Living Overlay Option Plan (ALOOP)
(George L. Richards, et al.)
OSAC takes no position
 7. Open space inventory follow-up
Nothing to discuss at this time.
 8. Goals for 2023
Mary wondered if the OSAC could look into the West Natick vacant commercial parcel across from Roche Brothers, adding this to our interest list (acquire with CPA funds in the future). It would give residents of West Natick opportunity for open space in a climate justice area. Claire and Terri agreed that it would be a good idea to look into this.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 11.

Motion to adjourn by Terri, seconded by Doug D. Vote 6-0-0. Adjourned at 9:02pm.

Minutes approved 6/8/2023