

# NATICK OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting – Remote Participation

## Minutes

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

Guests: Claire Rundelli, Planner/Conservation Agent

### Approval of Minutes – July 6, 2023

Approved 6-0-0

### Updates

- *Trails & Forest Stewardship Committee*: Doug reported that Lisa Standley is compiling an inventory of trail maintenance needs. He expects that the Town Forest Meadow will require spring and fall projects.

The kiosk update project is moving along. The Oak Street update has been completed with new plexiglass, paint, etc. The plan is to update all nine trail kiosks.

A date for an October Trails Day has not been set. The Committee is aiming to plan around other Town activities.

- *Community Preservation Act (CPA)*: Claire reported that the Town is expecting approval from the State Attorney General by September 12. Then the Town will have 60 days to fill 9 Community Preservation Commission (CPC) Board Member positions. Specified Town Committees appoint 5 Members and the Select Board appoints 4 Members.
- *St. Benedict School*: Claire reported that she is waiting until fall when it will be easier to evaluate the invasive situation on the trail along the western property border.
- *Other updates*: Claire reported the following:  
Two new Community & Economic Development staff positions, Transportation & Economic Development Planner and Associate Planner, have been filled.

DCR has awarded the Town a grant for developing a Stewardship/Management Plan for the Pickerel Pond/Sunkaway Area.

The Town received two Congressional earmarks for funding to support accessibility improvements to the Cochituate Aqueduct and to support legal

investigation related to extending the Sudbury Aqueduct Trail to the east and west.

Wayside Cluster: addition of 84 Rockland Street

Martin showed the Amended Site Plan for the Wayside Cluster Development. The Amended Plan provides for 2 additional structures (1 townhouse duplex and one single unit) plus open space at 84 Rockland Street (essentially the site of the existing house) and under the power lines.

A trail under the power lines connecting Rockland Street to the meadow trail might be possible. Proximity to residences on either side might be a problem. Claire noted that the lack of a sidewalk on Rockland presented safety concerns.

Martin noted the newly planted “forested area” of open space at the corner of Wayside and Rockland, and suggested that the open space along Rockland in the Amended Site Plan be a similar forested area, where power line restrictions allow.

Martin offered the following motion, which was approved 6-0-0: *The committee recommends that the open space at 84 Rockland Street be forested to the extent possible, considering the power lines, and that we explore the possibility of a trail along the power line easement.*

Martin also reported on a Wayside site visit with Mary and David L. The meadows north and south of Wayside Road look good, with many new wildflowers. The group followed the path of the proposed trail that Trask Development will build between Wayside Road and Cottage Street. The wooded portion from the power line to Cottage Street still needs improvement, including a bridge near the Cottage Street trailhead.

Natick Days, September 9, 10am-3pm

As in prior years, OSAC will share a table with TaFS.

Claire has collected ideas for a scavenger hunt. The winner will receive a framed picture map of Hunnewell Town Forest.

Open space inventory follow-up

Tabled

Goals for 2023

Tabled

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes approved 9/14/2023