



## Norton Open Space Committee

70 East Main Street

Norton MA 02766

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Email: [jthomas@nortonmaus.com](mailto:jthomas@nortonmaus.com)

<https://www.nortonma.org/conservationcommission>

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**Wednesday December 6, 2023**

**4:00 pm**

**Norton Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

Next  
Meeting:  
1/3/2024

### Minutes

#### **4:00pm Open Meeting**

**Members: Mike Rainville, Mike Martone, Melissa Niziolek, and Amelia Lydon**

*Also, in attendance Daniel Pearson and Paxton Halsall, members of the Conservation Commission.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS/ Discussion**

- **Community survey**

*The committee discusses the survey and where to post it to get the most views. They mention posting it to the LPS website, as well as reaching out to the Norton Trail Blazers and see if they could post it on their Facebook page. Melissa mentions she will get in contact with them.*

- **Open space plan discussions**

*The committee discusses the goals of the Open Space Plan. Stating they want to format the plan in a way that it is easier for everyone to understand. The committee goes through the stated goals and objectives of the past Open Space Plan and crosses out anything that has been achieved or that is no longer an option. Some of the specific goals that that committee would like to achieve are*

- *Canoe River Greenbelt- understanding the extent of that land and the protection of the area, including cleaning it up and preventing any destruction from ATVs and dumping.*
- *Sign and trail management plan, partnering with town agencies, also with the potential of getting grants from the state.*
  - *Proposed Town Trail Books*
  - *Better trail markers for public*
  - *Signage for specific plant species found on public trails*
- *Take inventory of properties, then take inventory of said premises*
  - *Kiosks at trails throughout Norton with information and good stewardship practices. Perhaps adding a QR code to some kiosks to provide further information about that specific location.*
- *Public outreach, where people can be informed of potential projects and be given a chance to get involved.*



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- *Seeing the public's opinion on a community garden at Everette Leonard*
- *Looking into the potential of placing sculptures on trails to enhance the cultural experience, and also provide information on native species that can be found on the trails.*
- *In an effort to engage the public, set up a Geocache or set up a scavenger hunt on town properties.*
- **Recommendation and improvements for 2025**  
*The committee states that they will discuss further at the next meeting what the immediate goals should be for 2025. It is mentioned that a sign and trail management plan would be considered for 2025. The committee states that more recommendations and improvements will be decided once they have discussed the goals and objectives more in depth at future meetings.*
- **Voting for Chair person**  
*The committee voted that Michael Rainville be the official chair of the Open Space Committee*  
*Motion made by Mike Martone and seconded Melissa Niziolek*  
*Aye: Mike Martone, Melissa Niziolek, Mike Rainville, Amelia Lydon.*

<b>OPEN SESSION (FOR TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48HRS IN ADVANCE)</b>
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Respectfully Submitted by: Megan Harrop

Minutes Approved by Commission on: 1/3/2024

Open Space Signature: