

Wednesday February 21, 2024

4:00 pm

Norton Town Hall, 2nd floor

MINUTES

4:00pm Open Meeting

Members: Mike Rainville, Mike Martone, Melissa Niziolek, Amelia Lydon, and Daniel Pearson

Staff: John Thomas and Megan Harrop

Meeting called to order at 4:02pm.

OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS/ Discussion

- *Goals and Actions Items*

The committee goes over the goals and action items of the open space plan and comes to a generalized consensus as to which goal/action items take priority of others based on needs of the community. The committee also agrees to take another look at the priority ratings at the next meeting to review goals 3 and 6.

- *Public Participation Program*

The committee discusses potential public outreach for the Open Space Plan. Along with holding public meetings to hear public feedback on the contents of the plan. The procedure on how to hold public meetings is discussed saying that it will potentially need to be advertised two weeks prior to the meeting. The committee agrees to discuss this more once the plan is further along.

- *Collecting Data: community setting, environmental inventory*

John Thomas talks with the committee stating that by the next meeting he hopes to have gone through a majority of the data necessary for the Open Space Plan. Once the data is collected it will be shared with the committee for review.

- *Opportunities and Constraints: resource protection, community, and management needs*

The committee mentions that they want to focus on what will be a benefit to the Town as a whole. Some specific items discussed are wanting to increase water access for the major water bodies, with talks of looking into stocking water bodies with fish. The committee also wants to focus on improving existing trails, improving already obtained properties such as Edith Read and Evertte Leonard. As well as increasing public parking at places like the Erikson conservation property to help facilitate easier public access.

- *Properties of concern*

NORTON TOWN CLERK

2024 MAR 29 AM 11:23

Next Meeting:
3/6/2024

Committee members and prior attendees of the meeting list out the properties that that they think should be further investigated by the committee. Along with the list it is also mentioned that there is a potential to look into privately owned undeveloped land to buy for future preservation.

- Dahl Nature Preserve
- Edith Read
- Canoe River
- Erikson Conservation
- Everette Leonard
- Leo Yelle Preserve
- Norton Reservoir Dam
- Red Mill
- Reservoir
- Bogs
- Johnson Acres
- Juniper Beach
- Wheaton Swamp
- Rose Farm
- Canoe River- Green Belt
- Chartley Pond- Fishing

- **Next steps**

For the next meeting the committee will be reviewing the data compiled by John Thoms. Ironing out goals and action items, and discussing a time frame for when the committee should have the first public meeting to gather community input.

Meeting Closed at 5:30pm

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| OPEN SESSION (FOR TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48HRS IN ADVANCE) |
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Respectfully Submitted by: Megan Harrop

Minutes Approved by Commission on:

Open Space Signature:

