

Minutes for the Open Space Planning Committee Meeting

July 24, 2023

Town Hall, Selectman's Conference Room

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The meeting began at 5pm.

Present at the meeting were Doug Stefancik, Town Planner; William Rosenblum, Board of Selectmen; Angela Tierney, Conservation Commission; Elaine Hodgman, Private Citizen; Ryan Linton, Private Citizen; Joao Dias, School Committee; and Jamie Tomas, DPW; John Archambeau, Recreation Commission; Mimi Kaplan, Consultant Pioneer for Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

Absent: James Goodreau, PDW; Joel Silva, Planning Board; and William "Bud" Ellison, Agricultural Commission

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

First order of business was to review Section 8: Goals and Objectives in the existing Open Space and Recreation Plan. See attachment. Mimi Kaplan asked which goals were met and which goals were not met. It was also discussed what the new goals should be. Much discussion occurred, as some of the goals and actions were not met. Specifically, not having a Recreation Director as a responsible party to help move through with the goals was mentioned as an issue. The new goals need to be tied into existing projects where future work is still needed, like the Riverwalk and the connecting park systems. Whitney Park on Howard Street needs a park renovation/overhaul along with other parks in Town. The Town is interested in a park renovation for Whitney Park. The playscape system at Camp White needs replacement. There was also talk of adding information to the Town web site, like information about which trails are located in Ludlow, Facing Rock, Camp White, and the Riverwalk. Also, a map of trails in Western Massachusetts is available which was produced by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. This map can be added to the Town web site.

Before the next meeting Mimi asked that the Committee review Goals 2 and 3.

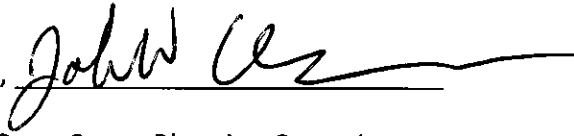
The Open Space Survey will be available the end of July. We hope to receive 500 responses.

It was decided that August 21 or August 23 would work as a potential next meeting date and time, and that Mimi would send out an email as to which date and time worked best.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 PM

Submitted by,

John Archambeau,



Secretary for the Open Space Planning Committee

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2023 NOV -7 A 11: 52

TOWN OF LUDLOW

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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2023 NOV -7 A 11: 52

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Goal #1: Publicly owned recreational facilities are accessible to the public.

Objective 1-A: Trail systems are available for walking and biking.

Recommended Actions:

- 1-1) Map existing trail systems, and assess current use, condition, accessibility, and maintenance.
- 1-2) Identify needs for improving existing trail systems and access, and develop grant applications to seek funding.
- 1-3) Conduct feasibility study for the construction of Ludlow bikeway, on-road and/or along former railway.
- 1-4) Work with private property owners on the development of non-motorized multi-use trails for public use.

Objective 1-B: Town owned parks and recreational fields are well-managed and maintained in good working condition to adequately meet community needs.

Recommended Actions:

- 1-5) Assess Town Forest for current recreational use.
- 1-6) Conduct assessment of expansion of passive recreation on Town Forest land including identification of abutting properties for shared goals.
- 1-7) Identify locations for development of new youth athletic fields; seek funding to develop fields.
- 1-8) Implement field rotation schedule to support/develop sustainable turf management program.
- 1-9) Promote adoption of the Community Preservation Act; Implement ballot initiative for adoption.

Objective 1-C: Community residents are well-informed about the types of facilities available for recreation, their location, and use rules and regulations for each locale.

Recommended Actions:

- 1-10) Develop print and on-line map of trail systems open for public use, including use rules and regulations for each property. (Trail and Facility Guides)
- 1-11) Make Guides available at each location for public use.
- 1-12) Conduct local campaign to inform residents about recreational facilities in the community, and rules and regulations per locale.

Goal #2: Connected tracks of open space are protected to provide corridors of plant and animal habitat and maintain the scenic and historic character of Ludlow.

Objective 2-A: Procedures for advancing land protection goals are established and recognized by all Town Departments, Boards, and Committees.

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2023 NOV -7 A 11: 54

Recommended Actions:

- 2-1) Develop a parcel level prioritization plan of lands with historical, ecological, scenic or agricultural significance to permanently protect. Prioritization should consider developing contiguous corridors of protected land.
- 2-2) Establish a procedural policy for reviewing lands withdrawn from Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B to determine if the Town should take advantage of its Right of First Refusal and acquire the parcel, or assign the right to another conservation partner to acquire the property.
- 2-3) Develop working relationships with federal, state, and non-profit conservation partners to identify opportunities for funding and other assistance to promote land conservation in Ludlow.
- 2-4) Continue to certify Vernal Pools with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to ensure regulatory protection of these resource areas under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) permitting processes.

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Objective 2-B: Local zoning supports land protection in areas prioritized for land protection.

Recommended Actions:

- 2-5) Perform a zoning review to identify consistency of local zoning to protection of open space identified in the Action Plan Map.
- 2-6) Form an all Departments/Boards project review committee that meets regularly to facilitate communication between Departments to ensure the representation of conservation interests during project permitting.
- 2-7) Implement Master Plan recommendations for the development of a Transfer of Development Rights Bylaw and Open Space Residential Development Bylaw.

Objective 2-C: Working farms and forest are economically viable in Ludlow.

Recommended Actions:

- 2-8) Support the Agricultural Commission's efforts to support a local agricultural economy.
- 2-9) Identify partners to conduct workshops about land protection tools and economic resources for keeping farms viable such as the APR program, Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B, and others.
- 2-10) Conduct outreach to forest landowners about tools and resources for sustainable forest management.

Goal #3: Rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers are protected and supported by watershed-wide best practices.

Objective 3-A: Local residents are well-informed about local waters, how they become polluted, best management practices they can employ to prevent water pollution.

Recommended Actions:

- 3-1) Support the DPWs stormwater education and outreach programming conducted under the NPDES MS4 permit in coordination with Connecticut River Stormwater Committee (facilitated by PVPC).
- 3-2) Support regional efforts to re-establish a Chicopee River Watershed Association Council.
- 3-3) Support education and outreach performed by the Conservation Commission about the value of wetlands, and best management practices for residences, businesses, and institutions to prevent water pollution.
- 3-4) Promote the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure in private and public development projects to reduce stormwater runoff and improve treatment and infiltration of stormwater.
- 3-5) Re-establish the Pond Management Committee to oversee community stewardship local waters.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	WHEN	FUNDING OPTIONS
Goal #1: Publicly owned recreational facilities are accessible to the public.			
1-1 Map existing trail systems, and assess current use, condition, accessibility, and maintenance.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013	
1-2 Identify needs for improving existing trail systems and access, and develop grant applications to seek funding.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013	MA DCR Trails Grant; EEA PARC Grant
1-3 Conduct feasibility study for the construction of Ludlow bikeway, on-road and/or along former railway.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2014-2020	
1-4 Work with private property owners on the development of non-motorized multi-use trails for public use.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2020	MA DCR Trails Grant
1-5 Assess Town Forest for current recreational use.	DPW, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013-2014	
1-6 Conduct assessment of expansion of passive recreation on Town Forest land including identification of abutting properties for shared goals.	DPW, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2014-2016	
1-7 Identify locations for development of new youth athletic fields; seek funding to develop fields.	Recreation Commission, DPW	2013-2020	EEA PARC Grant
1-8 Implement field rotation schedule to support/develop sustainable turf management program.	DPW, Recreation Commission	2014-2020	
1-9 Promote adoption of the Community Preservation Act; Implement ballot initiative for adoption.	Board of Selectmen	2013-2014	

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1-10	Develop print and on-line map of trail systems open for public use, including use rules and regulations for each property. (Trail and Facility Guides)	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2017	
1-11	Make Guides available at each location for public use.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2017	
1-12	Conduct local campaign to inform residents about recreational facilities in the community, and rules and regulations for each locale.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2020	
Goal #2: Connected tracks of open space are protected to provide corridors of plant and animal habitat and maintain the scenic and historic character of Ludlow.				
2-1	Develop a parcel level prioritization plan of lands with historical, ecological, scenic or agricultural significance to permanently protect. Prioritization should consider developing contiguous corridors of protected land.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor	2013	
2-2	Establish a procedural policy for reviewing lands withdrawn from Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B to determine if the Town should take advantage of its Right of First Refusal and acquire the parcel, or assign the right to another conservation partner to acquire the property.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor	2013	
2-3	Develop working relationships with federal, state, and non-profit conservation partners to identify opportunities for funding and other assistance to promote land conservation in Ludlow.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor	2013-2020	

2-4	Continue to certify Vernal Pools with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to ensure regulatory protection of these resource areas under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) permitting processes.	Conservation Commission	2013-2020	
2-5	Perform a zoning review to identify consistency of local zoning to protection of open space identified in the Action Plan Map.	Planning Board	2013-2014	DLTA (through PVPC), LTA (through PVPC)
2-6	Implement Master Plan recommendations for the development of a Transfer of Development Rights Bylaw and Open Space Residential Development Bylaw.	Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013-2014	DLTA (through PVPC)
2-7	Form an all Departments/Boards project review committee that meets regularly to facilitate communication between Department to ensure the representation of conservation interests during project permitting.	Board of Selectmen	2013-2020	
2-8	Support the Agricultural Commission's efforts to support a local agricultural economy.	Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013-2020	
2-9	Identify partners to conduct workshops about land protection tools and economic resources for keeping farms viable such as the APR program, Chapter 61A, and 61B, and others.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor, Conservation Commission, Tree Warden	2014-2020	
2-10	Conduct outreach to forest landowners about tools and	Planning Board, Conservation	2014-	MA DCR, UMASS

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2023

	resources for sustainable forest management.	Commission, Tree Warden	2017	Extension
Goal #3: Rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers are protected and supported by watershed-wide best practices.				
3-1	Support the DPWs stormwater education and outreach programming conducted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 permit in coordination with Connecticut River Stormwater Committee (facilitated by PVPC).	DPW, Planning Department, Conservation Commission	2013-2020	CT River Stormwater Committee (through PVPC)
3-2	Support regional efforts to re-establish a Chicopee River Watershed Association Council.	DPW, Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen	2014-2015	
3-3	Support education and outreach performed by the Conservation Commission about the value of wetlands, and best management practices for residences, businesses, and institutions to prevent water pollution.	Conservation Commission, DPW, Planning Department, Board of Selectmen	2013-2020	
3-4	Promote the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure in private and public development projects to reduce stormwater runoff and improve treatment and infiltration of stormwater.	Planning Department, DPW, Conservation Commission	2013-2015	DLTA (through PVPC)
3-5	Re-establish the Pond Management Committee to oversee community stewardship local waters.	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	2014-2017	