

Minutes for the Open Space Planning Committee Meeting

August 21, 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); James Goodreau, DPW and William "Bud" Ellison, Agricultural Commission

Absent: Joel Silva, Planning Board.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

The first order of business was to give an update on the survey. As of right now there have been 278 responses. The Committee was going to have the School Department send out a survey to the school community via email. Joao Dias was going to contact the School Department to organize.

The Committee also went over Goals and Objectives: See attachment for revisions.

The Committee decided to hold a public outreach session during the Festa Festival held in Ludlow. Bill would arrange for a site at Festa. Ryan would bring the tent, table and chairs. It was decided to have a raffle for those who submitted a survey at Festa. Bud Ellison was going to ask Kaen Randall if she would donate two \$50.00 gift certificates. Bud, Mimi, Ryan, Elaine and Doug would go to Festa to help out. Doug will print up the flyers and the surveys and will buy the candy.

The Committee approved the meeting minutes of June 12, 2023, and July 24, 2023.

It was decided that sometime in October the Committee would meet again. Mimi would send out an email as to which date and time worked best.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:05 PM

Submitted by,

John Archambeau, 

Secretary for the Open Space Planning Committee

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SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Publicly owned recreational facilities meet the needs of Ludlow residents and information about them is easily accessed. - I reworted this, forgot to use track changes.

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Objective 1-A: Improve the number and condition of trails in Ludlow. reworted Trail systems are available for walking and biking.

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Recommended Actions:

- 1-1) Map existing trail systems, and assess current use, condition, accessibility, and maintenance.
- 1-1) Identify needs for improving existing trail systems and access, and develop grant applications to seek funding.
- 1-2) Complete phases two and three of the Riverfront Walk
- 1-2)1-3) Explore development of a greenway that links to conservation areas and farms (?)

Objective 1-B: 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:

- 1-4) Map existing trail systems, and assess current use, condition, accessibility, and maintenance.
- 1-5) 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)
- 1-6) Develop a recreation webpage on the Town website that lists all facilities with links to maps.
- 1-7) Make paper maps/gGuides available at each location for public use. - or available at Town Hall, etc.
- Conduct local campaign to inform residents about recreational facilities in the community, and rules and regulations per locale. - Keep 1-6 and 1-7?
- 1-8)

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

Recommended Actions:

- 1-1)1-9) Assess Town-owned land Forest for current recreational use.
- 1-2)1-10) Conduct assessment of expansion of passive recreation on Town-owned Forest land, including identification of abutting properties for shared goals.

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1-3)1-11) Identify locations for development of new youth athletic fields, parks and playgrounds; seek funding to improve and develop fields, parks, and playgrounds; with emphasis on improvement, should this be reworded?

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1-4)1-12) Implement field rotation schedule to support/develop sustainable turf management program.

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1-13) Promote adoption of the Community Preservation Act; Implement ballot initiative for adoption.

1-14) Improve playground at Whitney Park.

1-5)1-15) Improve Baird School basketball court.

~~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:

1-3) — 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)

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1-4) — Make Guides available at each location for public use.

1-6) — 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.

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.

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.