

Minutes for the Open Space Planning Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023

Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

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The meeting began at 5pm.

Present at the meeting were Doug Stefancik, Town Planner; Angela Tierney, Conservation Commission; Elaine Hodgman, Private Citizen; Ryan Linton, Private Citizen; Joao Dias, School Committee; John Archambeau, Recreation Commission; James Goodreau, PDW William "Bud" Ellison, Agricultural Commission and Mimi Kaplan, Consultant Pioneer for Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

Absent: Joel Silva, Planning Board; Jamie Tomas, DPW and William Rosenblum, Board of Selectmen

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

The first order of business was to review the Survey responses. Mimi went over the responses with the committee. There were 507 survey responses. On an attachment Mimi gave a summary of the survey results. See attachment. Based on the survey responses Mimi and the Committee wanted to reflect the survey responses into the objectives and action items of the OSRP plan.

Getting into Section 8: Goals and Objectives, Mimi and the Committee went over the Goals, Objectives, and the recommended Actions. Under 1-2 Complete phases two and three of the Riverfront walk to Improve existing Riverwalk and complete the next phase of the Riverwalk.

Under Objective 1-B. add to Recommended action, increase parking for Town Forest and Springfield Reservoir. Under Objective 1-C, add Pickleball courts possible splash pad as park improvements. Mimi and the Committee went over the chart for the Goals and the Recommend Actions, where they revised the recommended actions and removed a few that were no longer relevant. The Committee removed Action 1-8, 1-10, 1-11, 2-2 and 2-5. They also added the Responsible Party, Timeline to complete the task, the Priority Level, (low, medium, or high) and the Funding Options. The committee stopped at action 2-6 and will resume at the next meeting.

Mimi also bought a few land use maps for the Committee to review. The maps to be reviewed were the Environmental Justice Block Group, Water Resources, Protected & Recreational Open Space, Regional Context, Unique Soils, Unique Features, and Zoning. There were a few areas that needed to be corrected on the Unique Soils and Unique Features maps. The Committee

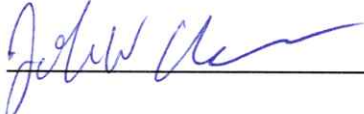
did not recognize some of the names of the areas indicated or the name was incorrect. Mimi will send out the maps to the Committee so they can review them further.

Next meeting will be in November and that Mimi will send out an email as to which date and time worked best for everyone.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Submitted by,

John Archambeau,



Secretary for the Open Space Planning Committee

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Ludlow OSRP

Summary of Survey Results

507 Responses

Question 1 - Top 6 activities respondents do in Ludlow:

- Walking
- Soccer
- Running
- Sledding
- Baseball
- Basketball

Top activities respondents do in other towns:

- Camping
- Pickleball
- Ice Skating
- Cross Country Skiing
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Motorized vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles etc)
- Hiking
- Fishing

Top place where people go:

- Wilbraham
- Belchertown
- Monson
- S. Hadley
- Holyoke
- Chicopee
- Amherst
- Palmer
- Granby

Question 2 - Top kids' activities at Boys and Girls Club:

- Basketball
- Other (preschool, open swim)
- Summer Program
- Swim Lessons
- Before or After School
- Soccer

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Question 3 - Top Kids' activities with Ludlow programs:

- Ludlow Youth Soccer Assn
- Other (cheerleading, Pioneers soccer, basketball, track)
- Dance/Gymnastics at private studio
- Ludlow Youth Baseball
- Whitney summer program
- Ludlow youth hockey

Question 4 - Top Recreation/Open Space Facilities Used Frequently:

- Riverwalk
- School Playgrounds
- Springfield Reservoir
- Facing Rock
- Whitney Street Park

Top Recreation/Open Spaces facilities used occasionally:

- Springfield Reservoir
- Riverwalk
- Memorial Park
- School Playgrounds
- Whitney Street Park

Top recreation/open space facilities NEVER use:

- Electric Park
- West Street Playground
- Haviland Pond and Beach
- Thompson Pool
- Westover golf course
- Minnechoag Pond

Top recreation/open space facilities people don't know about:

- Pickerell Pond, Second Pond, Gamache Pond, Lyon Pond, Wade Pond, Wood Pond, Alden St pond
- Westover conservation area
- Ludlow State Forest

Question 5 - Top improvements, additions or changes respondents want to see at recreational facilities:

- More walking or hiking trails/paths
- More updated/modern playgrounds
- Restrooms/field house facilities at open space/rec areas
- River walks
- More/improved athletic fields
- Bike trails/paths

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Top Comments:

- Better maintenance at all facilities -Litter, weeds, broken equipment, better landscaping all need to be addressed
- Update playgrounds
- Pickleball/tennis courts
- More parking at Haviland Pond, Springfield/Ludlow Reservoir, Facing Rock
- Additional/larger spray park/splash pad

Question 6 - Top priorities for Town future open space investments:

- More playgrounds/playground improvements
- More walking/hiking trails
- Paved walking/biking paths
- Improved access to Springfield Reservoir
- Farmland Protection
- Town owned rec center
- More athletic fields/improvements

Other/Comments:

- Pickleball
- Splashpad
- Maintenance
- Water at dog park
- Improve high school track

Question 7 - Most improvement needed for facilities/programs for :

- Teenagers
- Disabled
- Adults
- Families

Question 8 – Comments on improvements to ADA accommodations:

- Accessible/adaptive playgrounds ***
- Access to Haviland beach and pond, more access to lakes for boats
- More handicapped parking and ramps
- More paved paths

Question 9

Top priorities for conservation:

- Drinking water sources
- Open space for recreation
- Working farms/farmland

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Question 10 - top priority for land preservation: Apply for grants for land purchases

Question 11 – Park or Open Space 10 minute walk from your home?

- Yes – 54%
- No – 30%
- Yes but don't use – 10%
- I don't know – 6%

Respondents live in precincts in this order (most to least):

- 3, 6, 5, 4, 1, 2

Age of respondents in this order (most to least):

- 30 – 44
- 45 – 59
- 60 – 75
- 19 – 29
- Over 75
- 18 and under

91% of respondents own their home, 9% rent

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SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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Goal #1: Publicly owned recreational facilities meet the needs of Ludlow residents and information about them is easily accessed.

Objective 1-A: There is a large and accessible trail network in Ludlow for recreating, and the trails are in good condition.

Recommended Actions:

- 1-1) Identify needs for improving existing trail systems and access to trails, and develop grant applications to seek funding.
- 1-2) Complete phases two and three of the Riverfront Walk
- 1-3) Explore development of a greenway that links to open spaces across Ludlow.

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 and recreation guides available at Town Hall and Library for public use, and include the QR code to the website.

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:

- 1-8) Assess Town-owned land for current active and passive recreational use.
- 1-9) Seek grant and other funding to improve fields, parks, and playgrounds.
- 1-10) Explore possibility of indoor athletic facilities
- 1-11) Implement field rotation schedule to support/develop sustainable turf management program.
- 1-12) Promote adoption of the Community Preservation Act; Implement ballot initiative for adoption.
- 1-13) Improve playground, athletic fields, and other facilities at Whitney Park.
- 1-14) Improve Baird School basketball court.

Goal #2: Open spaces are protected to provide for plant and animal habitat, and to 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.
- 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.- Completed. Angela will provide suggestions on combining with 2-3
- 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) Provide residents with information regarding certification of 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 prioritization of areas 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) Continue to facilitate communication between Departments to ensure the representation of conservation interests during project permitting.
- 2-7) Consider 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 forests are economically viable in Ludlow.

Recommended Actions:

- 2-8) Support the Agricultural Commission's efforts to sustain 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, and 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 Chicopee River Watershed Association Council monitoring and restoration efforts.
- 3-3) Explore possible recreational access to the Chicopee River in Ludlow.
- 3-4) 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.
- 3-5) 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.
- 3-6) Support the Pond Management Committee in overseeing community of stewardship local waters.

Goal #4: Haviland Pond is enjoyed by Town residents for swimming and boating, and is maintained in good condition

Objective 4-A: Improve condition of Haviland Pond, Beach, and Facilities

- 4-1) Support Pond Committee in improving water quality at Haviland Pond.
- 4-2) Improve beach sand quality.
- 4-3) Seek funding and consultant to develop a landscaping plan around the beach.
- 4-4) Assess the condition of the bathhouse and needs for improvement.
- 4-5) Develop a maintenance plan for the Haviland Pond area.

Objective 4-B: Expand parking areas, boating access, and recreational opportunities at the Pond

- 4-4) Assess potential use and parking need.
- 4-5) Work with a consultant on a plan for additional parking areas.
- 4-6) Improve boat launching facilities, such as adding a floating dock.

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
Goal #1: Publicly owned recreational facilities are accessible to the public.				
1-1	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
1-2	Complete phases two and three of the Riverfront Walk			
1-3	Explore development of a greenway that links to open spaces across Ludlow.			
1-4	Map existing trail systems, and assess current use, condition, accessibility, and maintenance.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013	
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)	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2017	
1-6	Develop a recreation webpage on the Town website that lists all facilities with links to maps.			
1-7	Make paper maps and facility guides available at Town Hall and Library for public with a QR code for the website.	DPW, Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2015-2017	

ACTION		RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
1-8	Assess Town Forest for current active and passive recreational use.	DPW, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013-2014		
1-9	Seek grant and other funding to improve fields, parks, and playgrounds.				
1-10	Explore possibility of indoor athletic facilities				
1-11	Implement field rotation schedule to support/develop sustainable turf management program.	DPW, Recreation Commission	2014-2020		
1-12	Promote adoption of the Community Preservation Act; Implement ballot initiative for adoption.	Board of Selectmen	2013-2014		
1-13	Improve playground, athletic fields, and other facilities at Whitney Park.				
1-14	Improve Baird School basketball court.				
Goal #2: Open Spaces are protected to provide for plant and animal habitat and to 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.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor	2013		

ACTION		RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
2-2	<p>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.</p>	<p>Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor</p>	<p>2013</p>		
2-3	<p>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.</p>	<p>Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Assessor</p>	<p>2013-2020</p>		
2-4	<p>Provide residents with information regarding certification of 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.</p>	<p>Conservation Commission</p>	<p>2013-2020</p>		

ACTION		RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
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	Continue 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.	Planning Board, Board of Selectmen	2013-2014		DLTA (through PVPC)
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 61, 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 resources for sustainable forest management.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Tree Warden	2014-2017		MA DCR, UMASS Extension

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
Goal #3: Rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers are protected and supported by watershed-wide best practices.				
3-1	Support the DPW's 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 Chicopee River Watershed Association Council monitoring and restoration efforts.	DPW, Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen	2014-2015	
3-3	Explore possible recreational access to the Chicopee River in Ludlow.			
3-4	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	
3-5	Promote the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure in private and public development projects to reduce stormwater runoff and improve	Planning Department, DPW, Conservation Commission	2013-2015	DLTA (through PVPC)

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PRIORITY LEVEL	FUNDING OPTIONS
treatment and infiltration of stormwater.				
3-6 Support the Pond Management Committee in overseeing community stewardship local waters.	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	2014-2017		
Goal #4: Haviland Pond is enjoyed by Town residents for swimming and boating, and is maintained in good condition.				
4-1	Support Pond committee in improving water quality at Haviland Pond.			
4-2	Improve beach sand quality.			
4-3	Seek funding and consultant to develop a landscaping plan around the beach.			
4-4	Assess the condition of the bathhouse and needs for improvement.			
4-5	Develop a maintenance plan for the Haviland Pond area.			
4-6	Assess potential use of pond and parking needs.			
4-7	Work with a consultant on a plan for additional parking areas.			
4-8	Improve boat launching facilities, such as adding a floating dock.			