



TOWN OF NORWELL

345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Implementation Committee

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm in person and via Zoom

Committee Members present: Wendy Bawabe, Fred Bousquet, Stacy Minihane, Ilana Quirk, Will Saunders, and Marynel Wahl

Committee Members not present: John diFrisco, George Grey, Heather Hanley, Justin Ivas, and Steve Ivas

The meeting was **called to order** by Wahl at 5:02 pm.

Ms. Wahl announced that all votes will be roll call votes as some of the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting is being recorded and the audio file will be available upon request. It was noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq extended to March 31, 2025.

The **agenda** was accepted as written. (*Bawabe motioned, Saunders seconded, all in favor*)

The **minutes** for the June 7, 2023 meeting were approved as written. (*Minihane motioned, Quirk seconded, all in favor*)

The plans for **Conservation Day on August 19th** were discussed. The event will be from 9:00-1:00 at the Jacobs Pond conservation area. The events for the day are:

- Guided kayak/canoe tours of Jacobs Pond with Brian Taylor ([NSRWA](#))
- Indigenous land management walk with Waban Webquish ([Mashpee Wampanoag](#) and [Natick Nipmuc](#))
- Geographical history walk with Steve Ivas (Wetlands expert)
- Hands-on ecology at the pond's edge with [SSNSC](#)
- Guided history walk with Wendy Bawabe ([Norwell Historical Society](#))
- Face Painting with Avis Pinkos & Karen Hawthorne
- Backyard birding walk with Vaishnavi Ramesh (local naturalist)
- Flora & Fauna walk with Brian Taylor ([NSRWA](#))
- Food Truck
- Touch-A-Truck with Norwell Police & Fire Departments

Also on August 19th will be the **Stetson Heritage Day celebration** at the Stetson Kindred pavilion on the North River (83 Stetson Shrine Road) from 1:00-4:00. This event is co-sponsored by the Norwell Historical Society and the Stetson Kindred of America, and the events include:

- A talk about the Stetson spring and the history of water use in Norwell by Steve Ivas
- A Conservation-led trail walk by Will Saunders

The discussion on **Beech Leaf Disease** that took place during the last meeting was continued. Bawabe spoke to Abraham Monahan from Bartlett Tree Experts, and he noted that Bartlett did a trial of possible treatments for the nematode and resulting Beech Leaf Disease last year and they were effective. Bawabe will contact him to see if Bartlett would be willing to do a pilot program with the Town of Norwell. In the meantime, Saunders will identify particularly important Beech trees that should be saved.

The Committee reviewed priority **Action Items** from the OSRP that have already been discussed:

PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE NETWORK:

- 2.7 Create signage, programs, and events to make current paths/trails more dynamic and invite more usage.** (Will Saunders, Lead)

NATURAL RESOURCES & BIODIVERSITY:

- 5.17 Develop a forest management plan, with particular focus on fire risk management.** (Vin Bucca, Lead)

The priority **Action Item** for the next meeting on August 30th is:

NATURAL RESOURCES & BIODIVERSITY:

- 5.19 Develop an invasive species educational campaign.** (Stacy Minihane, Lead) Minihane and Tricia DeGiulio will do a presentation on this subject.

Priority **Action Items** still to be discussed are:

WATER:

- 1.3 Public Outreach for Water Conservation & Education** (Steve Ivas, Lead)

RECREATION:

- 3.2 Strategic Planning/Feasibility for Rec Facilities** (George Grey, Lead)
3.3 Existing Properties Re-use/Development (John diFrisco, Lead)
3.17 Consistent Signage & Kiosks (George Grey, Lead)

HISTORIC:

- 4.4 Protect with Historical Preservation Restrictions** (Wendy Bawabe, Lead)
4.9 Create, improve, and maintain signage (Wendy Bawabe, Lead)

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- 5.15 Determine ownership of municipal properties** (Marynel Wahl, Lead)

IMPLEMENTATION:

- 6.2 Establish a communication plan** (Marynel Wahl, Lead)

The meeting was **adjourned** at 6:05 pm. (*Minihane motioned, Wahl seconded, all in favor*)

It was decided that the next meeting would be on **Wednesday, August 30th at 5:00** pm via Zoom and in person at the Conservation Offices at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Bawabe, OSRP Implementation Committee

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DONE
Send final minutes from 6/7/23 to Town Clerk	Bawabe	✓
Contact Abraham at Bartlett Tree re: possible collaboration	Bawabe	
Identify important Beech trees on Town-owned property	Saunders	
Prepare for August meeting on invasives	Minihane & Margro	
Post the next meeting	Wahl	
NOTED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, STILL TO BE WORKED ON...		
Write a proposal to Phil Benjamin	Saunders	
Send bench specs to Bawabe for Branding Guidelines	Saunders	
Create an online document listing small Town projects that could be eligible for grants. Share this doc with appropriate parties and Committees.	Wahl	
Continue to work on Branding Guidelines	Bawabe	
Consider historic properties in town and send email to Bawabe regarding your "Top Five" for Façade Preservation	EVERYONE	
Review the competing lists of land categories and try to get a better number of preserved Town land	Grey & Saunders	