



TOWN OF NORWELL

345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Implementation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm

in person and via Zoom

Committee Members present: Wendy Bawabe, John diFrisco, Steve Ivas, Ilana Quirk, Will Saunders, and Marynel Wahl

Committee Members not present: Fred Bousquet, George Grey, Heather Hanley, Justin Ivas, and Stacy Minihane

Also present: Norwell resident A.C. Decker

The meeting was **called to order** by Wahl at 5:03 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. (*Quirk motioned, Ivas seconded, all in favor*)

The **minutes** for the August 30, 2023 meeting were approved as written. (*Quirk motioned, Ivas seconded, all in favor*)

Saunders updated the Committee on the Conservation Commission's decision to treat the Beech trees on the island in Jacobs Pond for **Beech Leaf Disease (BLD)**, to use these trees as the test case location for the treatment method. Saunders will contact Abraham Monahan from [Bartlett Tree Experts](#) in Hanover to have the first foliar treatment done ASAP. The cost will be \$300/treatment and two treatments are required per year. For 2023, there will only be one treatment as they are done in the fall and spring.

Norwell resident AC Decker attended the meeting to learn about BLD. He had gotten on the DCR website and saw there was a [form to fill out if BLD is detected on your property](#), and he wondered if this should be done. Saunders noted that the form is used to monitor the progress of BLD and can be filled out, but DCR is already aware that almost all of Norwell has been affected by BLD. *Today's bad news: Saunders reported that historically a nematode (which is what causes BLD) has never been successfully managed.*

Of general note, Ivas updated the Committee on the progress of the **South Street treatment plant**. The plant will be closed for the Winter soon, everything inside will be dried out thoroughly in preparation for the installation of the activated charcoal system to remove PFAS. The plant will be up-and-running by Spring and the PFAS levels will be so low that they will be technically considered "zero."

The priority **Action Items** for this meeting are:

PROTECT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF NORWELL'S WATER SUPPLY:

1.1 Acquire land and/or easements/restrictions to protect water supply, quality, quantity, and recharge. (Steve Ivas, Lead)

Ivas noted that the Town has found a new well location on Bowker Street. This is a very deep well (900+ feet) and is between two types of rock. It still needs to be tested for PFAS. This bedrock-based well is producing a lot of water, and deep wells such as this are less affected by drought.

He also noted that there is the possibility of a Summer 2024 intern who would develop a 3D map of the bedrock in town. Such a map would allow for more effective deep drilling.

1.3 Create and implement public outreach initiatives and educational materials that promote using water conservation measures such as NSRWA “Greenspaces” Program that teaches homeowners how to create beautiful landscapes while protecting water resources.

(Steve Ivas, Lead)

Ivas noted that the [basic information](#) is on the Town website and on the [Water Department FaceBook page](#). The FaceBook posts largely are coming from the [Water Conservation Toolkit](#), provided by the Mass. Water Resources Commission.

There was discussion on how the OSRP Committee could assist the Water Department in their messaging—to better educate residents on the water rules and how individual water usage affects Town wells.

It was agreed that coordinating with the NSRWA and not duplicating efforts is important. Resurrecting the 5th grade tours of the Treatment Facility was suggested.

It was also noted that the Town needs to appoint a Certified Flood Plain Manager (someone who is point person for emergencies in town). Saunders said he will be getting this certification and serve in that role.

1.7 Display information on Nat'l Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II stormwater regulations in the Town Hall, NPL, and on the town’s website. (Steve Ivas, Lead)

While this was noted as a Priority Action Item in the Plan, it was not discussed at this meeting.

Priority **Action Items** for the next meeting on Wednesday, October 25th are:

RECREATION:

3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 3.14, 3.17, and 3.18 are all noted as Priority Action Items.

Which of this will be reviewed at the October meeting was not noted. George Grey and John diFrisco will lead the discussion.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 5:56 pm. (*Wahl motioned, Quirk seconded, all in favor*)

The next meeting would be on **Wednesday, October 25th 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 8/30/23 to Town Clerk	Bawabe	✓
Discuss how the OSRP Committee can help the Water Department with messaging	Ivas	
Get Flood Plain Manager certification	Saunders	
Prep for next meeting’s Action Items discussion	Grey & diFrisco	
Post the next meeting	Wahl	
NOTED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, STILL TO BE WORKED ON...		
Work on the Invasives Species Info Series flyers	Minihane & Bawabe	
Write a proposal to Phil Benjamin (or his successor)	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	