

*Approved 1.3.24*

TOWN OF WENHAM

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Meeting of December 13, 2023

Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30 A, §18-25, written notice posted by the Interim Town Clerk delivered to all Committee members, a public meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Committee (OSRC) was posted for December 13, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom.

The OSRC was formed in September 2016 and given the following charge by the Select Board: Work to deliver a comprehensive update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which was completed & approved in 2018. The Committee continues an ongoing review & updating of the OSRP as appropriate. Based on the findings of the OSRP, the Committee work with the Select Board & other Town boards, commissions, & committees to maintain a list of target properties considered desirable for protection for various municipal uses. Work with private property owners and non-profit agencies to identify opportunities to preserve open space & funding sources to support these preservation efforts. Work with the Select Board to identify properties that are better suited for development than preservation & support the creation of a strategic plan to address these opportunities. Work to support adoption of planning, zoning, & assessment practices/policies that reinforce the objective of preserving & acquiring open space in Wenham. Provide progress reports to the Select Board as appropriate, or as requested, and make recommendations to the Select Board and Town Meeting regarding the acquisition of open space. Members: Ernest Ashley/MPAC Rep (2024); Ann Weeks (2024); Guenther Anger (2024); Tom Starr (2025); Louis Randazzo (2025); Vincent Fennell (2025); Maribeth Ting (2026).

**Call to Order:** A quorum was reached at 7:43pm. An informal update was provided for those present: E. Ashley, Chair; V. Fennell, Vice Chair; A. Weeks; G. Anger (7:43pm). Not present: L. Randazzo T. Starr; M. Ting  
Also present: Kate Mallory, Conservation Coordinator/OSRC Staff

West Wenham Park update

1. Meeting overview with DPW and BSC Group - K. Mallory reported the DPW and BSC Group had an on-site meeting at the park to have a better understanding of what preliminary work the DPW could do i.e. tree protection, erosion control, install notice board/sign, water pipe installation, drainage, preliminary work for swales, catch basin work, and trim trees. This work needs Conservation Commission approval; an RDA will be submitted in January.

For safety reasons k. Mallory will request the Select Board shut down the park in January for this work to begin. It is anticipated the work would be done by the end of the summer.

2. Invasive clearing – Plant Magic is working with the town and offered to do the work at no cost to the town on Sundays during the winter as they train volunteers; this saves approximately \$8,000.

3. Tree work – Trees to be removed will be flagged. A tree company is being sought to do the work at a reduced cost.

4. Request for Determination of Applicability permit for the Conservation Commission

- Community Preservation Committee (CPC) request for recreational/trail signs - \$15,000

- Application 12.4.24

K. Mallory submitted an application for recreational signs through the CPC committee; trail signs are on the OSRC Action Plan. The intention is to create a consistency through town and add 'branding'. Suggested areas for signs includes Iron Rail, Reynold's Farm, and the Rail Trail.

- Discuss the Select Board's formal request to undertake a comprehensive review of the current uses of Pingree Park and initiate the planning process to conduct a feasibility study.

- S. Poulos, Town Administrator Memo 12.7.24

This agenda will be discussed in detail the next meeting. The Committee members each said they had a number of questions regarding this request.

- Master Plan Advisory Committee Update – Goals and strategies have been identified. A survey is on the town web site and residents are asked to comment.

- Approve Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2023, October 11, 2023 Executive Session, & November 1, 2023

*Respectfully Submitted By Catherine Tinsley, 1.27.24*