



**Norton Conservation Commission**  
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## **Open Space Plan Meeting Minutes January 26, 2017**

Attendance: Peter Wiggins, Gene Blood, Earl Willcott, Lisa Carrozza, Craig MacQuown, Tabitha Harkin, Kathy Ebert-Zawasky, Nick Schleicher, Conservation Agent Jennifer Carlino

### Document List:

1. Current OSRP:  
<http://www.nortonma.org/conservation-commission/pages/open-space-and-recreation-plan>
2. Current OSRP summary handout:  
[http://www.nortonma.org/sites/nortonma/files/uploads/\\_norton\\_open\\_space\\_plan\\_summary\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.nortonma.org/sites/nortonma/files/uploads/_norton_open_space_plan_summary_pamphlet.pdf)
3. Division of Conservation Services, Open Space Plan Workbook  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/osrp-workbook08.pdf>
4. Division of Conservation Services, Open Space Plan Requirements  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/dcs/osplanreq08.pdf>
5. "Open space and Recreation Plans and Grant Programs: the whats, whys and hows", DCR slide show handout provided by Bill Napolitano, SRPEDD
6. Appendix I: Preparing and Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Participants reviewed the document list.

What is the role of the Committee? Purpose of the Committee is to complete the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Commitment ends in October 2017. Discussion was held about other community leaders who should be invited to participate. YMCA, historical commission/society, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Wheaton will be invited to next meeting.

### The Community Survey

The survey gives the committee the most information to work with for the rest of the update so the survey should be done asap. Carlino will send survey from last plan. Members can determine if those questions are still relevant, should be revised or shortened. Discussion was held about ways to get more responses. Raffle prize has worked in other towns. Participants will try to obtain a prize for the survey.

### Updating the Plan (OSRP Plan Requirements, page 9, Appendix I)

Participants reviewed the checklist for updating the plan. SRPEDD is assisting us complete the update. Funding was approved at Fall Town Meeting 2016.

Participants discussed major topics printed on large sheets of paper. Ideas were written onto the paper.



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Board 1: What is special about Norton? Why do you like living here?

- Rural character/woods
- Lack of traffic
- Transportation access/hub (highway, train, more parking needed for train)
- Wetlands and free ecosystem services they provide (flood control, wildlife)
- Tree lined streets/stone walls
- College
- Large undeveloped tracts of land
- Rivers/ponds

Board 2: What facilities/activities do we need/want.

- Parking areas for con con/LPS/rec land, new rail trail, boating
- Rail trail
- Vista areas
- Fishing on Rt 140 and Chartley, access to reservoir dam
- SIGNAGE
- Complete streets program
- Walkable streets/community
- LID/Green infrastructure
- Air quality/energy/renewable/climate change improvements
- Boating access (cartop, rentals), public boat access
- Wayfinding: points of interest on a map
- Pair with wheaton-boat access on Reservoir St?
- Company sponsorship of con com land
- Nicer entrance to Canoe River Greenbelt and Recreation Area
- Trail maps with mileage

Board 3: Most important projects and areas to preserve

- SIGNAGE
- Parking
- Maps
- General Access
- Education (dog waste)
- Funding
- Houghton's Farm
- Girl Scout land
- Any contiguous river corridor
- Bucklin
- Daggat Crandall (NW corner)



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Future meetings (day, time, dates)

Participants agreed to serve on the Open Space Plan Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS), until the Plan is complete. Plan is due by October 2017. Committee will meet on last Thursday each month. Carlino will send letter to BOS asking for appointment. Next meeting will be February 23, 2017 at 6:30pm in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room.

Action items:

- Carlino will send letter to BOS asking for appointments
- Carlino will send survey from last plan. Members can determine if those questions are still relevant, should be revised or shortened.
- Participants will try to obtain a prize for the survey raffle and bring to next meeting.
- YMCA, historical commission/society, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Wheaton will be invited to next meeting (Carlino).

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

*Submitted by*

*approved 3/30/17*

*Jennifer Carlin*

*Conservation Agent*