

## 6. Community Vision

### *A. Description of Process*

As outlined in Section 2, the Open Space Committee has solicited input from the community through a detailed survey; written requests for input from town boards, commissions, and committees; a community quest; community meetings; monthly (or more frequent) Open Space Committee meetings; coverage of the process in area newspapers; and on-line requests for input.

### *B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals*

Based on the above, the broad goals expressed by the residents of Lakeville include the preservation of water resources, wildlife habitat, agriculture, and historic resources; the development of recreational facilities for all age groups; the production of outreach materials to foster support for open space and recreational endeavors; and the establishment of a framework for ongoing open space acquisition and protection.

## 7. Analysis of Needs

To this point, our Plan has included an inventory of existing conditions in Lakeville, as well as a broad statement of the goals expressed by the public at our meetings and in the survey. In this section, the data from the 2008 survey is reviewed, and specific explicit and implicit resource protection, community, and management needs are discussed.

The June 2008 Open Space Survey evoked 160 responses, somewhat less than the 196 returned in 1999, but nonetheless a respectable response rate, given that the 1999 version was mailed to virtually all residents. The overall attitudes and trends reflected by both surveys are similar. Replies indicate respondents were already favorably disposed to protection of our outdoor resources, which suggests the overall result is likely biased in that direction as suggested by a few respondents to the most recent survey.

The responses to Question 1, “Where do you live,” show a very uniform distribution of respondents across the entire town. This is very encouraging in that it indicates we have garnered opinions from residents in both the built-up and more rural areas of town.

Questions 2, 3 and 4 reveal that the typical respondent is 35-55 yrs. old, and is living in their own house with 1 or 2 children. They have been living here, on average, about ten years. However, it is worth noting that there was another small (14.5%), but statistically significant group responding that have lived here more than 35 yrs. (This group is apparently also evident in the Town’s population figures where there is a significant bulge of 65-74 yr. old residents. A subsequent analysis of these respondents’ answers to this survey could be of value in determining whether the survey results represent an accurate representation of public opinions in Lakeville.)

Questions 5 and 6 explored the use of commuter rail and reflect only a small increase in ridership from the 1999 survey. It now stands at only 7.5% for regular (several days a week) commuting, although one-half of all respondents used the train infrequently (at least once) during the course of the year. Nonetheless, just as in 1999, a great number indicate they will consider using it in the future.

In Question 7 respondents were asked to indicate their preferences from a list of outdoor activities available about town, and in Question 8, suggest others not listed. The top four categories are, in order: 1) Walking, outdoor rec. 2) Wildlife/bird watching, 3) Town Center activities or events, 4) Biking, children’s play/family picnic areas: parks, beach. Least popular are, in ascending order from the bottom 1) Horseback riding 2) Camping, 3) Tennis, 4) Recreation Center, closely followed by ice skating/hockey, car shows and golf. Among the suggested 22 additions, three involved more outdoor winter activities and three cited hunting. This re-

sponse to Questions 7 and 8 also suggests a bias of respondents' away from traditionally upscale, more costly social recreation towards more individual or family oriented activities to an extent that may not be representative of the overall demographics of the Town.

Question 9 asked respondents to name (not choose) what outdoor activities the Town should develop. Eighty-six replies were evoked. A very impressive number (27) of these named "trails" or "paths." Multiple votes were also made for improving Ted Williams Camp (5), sidewalks (6), more ice activities (4).

That 150 of 158 respondents answered Question 10 "Should Lakeville save open space?" in the affirmative, while conceivably pointing to a bias of our respondent base, as suggested by some of our respondents, nonetheless is fully consistent with the most recent Master Plan Survey results.

Question 11 explored what business types respondents would like to see in Lakeville. Of the 159 replies, 128 (80.5%) checked working farms, 114 chose traditional family restaurants; 97 small retail; and 99 checked cranberry bogs. At the bottom with 9 was heavy industry and "other" followed by fast food restaurants with 11. Large retail was the next least favored with 17 replies. These preferences remain largely unchanged from 1999 and all are reflected on the Master Plan Survey.

Question 12 examined respondents' frequency of visiting destinations around town, primarily Town-owned parks for recreation. One hundred and fifty-eight responses were elicited. Top selection was the new library, followed by Ted Williams Camp and Long Pond. All other town-owned parks were listed, and some like the Vigers Conservation Area, Fred Shaw and Dickran Diran, were rarely visited, at least knowingly. Significantly, a number of responses to some of the following questions strongly suggest that a great many respondents were not aware of the existence of the Town's smaller or more out-of-the-way parks. Some kind of educational/public outreach program is indicated.

Question 13 is unique in that the responses indicated no statistically significant preference between the values the various respondents attached to the open space-like places and the values they placed on recreational site-like places. Generally speaking, in the broadest possible sense, it might be inferred that the qualities associated with natural, environmentally evocative sites were favored over those associated man-made or historic constructs.

Question 14 solicited opinions on what methods respondents preferred to preserve open space in Lakeville. The replies indicate a major education challenge at hand. The majority of respondents appear to be insufficiently familiar with the details of the various proffered methods of preservation to choose between them. While in itself Question 14 is a well thought out and well constructed question, for any results to be truly

meaningful, its respondents must have a firm grasp of the full spectrum of land protection options available in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Although the respondents favor CPA, would like more protective zoning and favor a building cap, answers indicate that respondents have little knowledge of actual land protection strategies. For example, replies indicate a near-consensus that it should all be done with someone else's money, and it should all just somehow happen, although many respondents would "contribute time and effort." Education is absolutely required.

A list of potentially critical issues facing Lakeville was presented in Question 15, where respondents were to agree or disagree if "they are truly important." Protecting and enhancing the Town's rural qualities was deemed most important. It is statistically tied with "protecting Lakeville's open space." Public education fell in third place. Other items, taxes, services, etc. all scored similarly, but well below the top three items. Unfortunately the three growth oriented issues were presented in a manner that was clearly ambiguous to respondents. It appears about one-half answered in the sense that growth was a critical issue to the Town, while the other half answered in a sense that they disagreed with actually having the growth, neatly balancing the answers of the first half. Were, however, one to "correct" the data based on the assertion above, the corrected result places the growth concern options (all three of them) slightly above the other items; taxes, services, etc. cited above, but still well below the top three items of concern.

Question 16, "Lakeville needs more \_\_\_\_\_" with 160 responses, 'yes', 'no', or 'maybe', gives three clear-cut 'yes's', and three clear-cut 'no's'. The top four yes's are: bike paths 98, nature trails 95, wildlife habitats 82, and sidewalks 76. The top four no's are: boat ramps 79, playgrounds 64, beaches 55 and sidewalks 45. All the other choices have mixed appeal, although less dramatically than the break point sidewalk issue shown.

Question 17, Desirable 20-yr. Development, the first of several open ended questions, elicited 117 responses, most of which were well thought out and carefully stated. From this point on in the survey, it appears that over 40 of the respondents to the majority of the previous questions gave up or ran out of time to finish an admittedly long and reasonably complex questionnaire. To summarize, no industrial or big-box retail establishments are wanted. This is wholly in line with the 1999 Open Space and more recent Master Plan surveys. Some limited commercial development is envisioned, which is also reflected in the previous surveys. However, unlike previously, when addressing the residential development issue, words such as, "slow," "limited," "tasteful" and "controlled" regularly recur, indicating a desire now for the Town to exercise considerably enhanced controls on the amount and appearance of further residential development. And, it should be noted further, that in responses to some later open-ended questions, several respondents express concerns that the Town lacks the resolve to do this.

Question 18 asked respondents to name Lakeville's strengths. It was not multiple choice. Of the 118 replies,

52 used the word “rural” and another 18 mentioned “water,” “scenery,” or “open space,” suggesting a clear majority of respondents were proponents of open space. The question again reflects opinions expressed in the Master Plan survey.

In Question 19, essentially a follow-up to the proceeding question, respondents were asked to name Lakeville’s most attractive feature. 133 replies were received. This time “water” was cited in 42 replies, “rural” or “small town” appeared in 42, as before, a good majority. Other replies to both Questions 18 and 19 varied so highly in subject that no clear runner-ups could be delineated. Question 19 might have provided more useful responses if placed elsewhere in the survey.

Next, in Question 20, respondents were to name the Town’s weaknesses. The 119 replies were considerably more varied than the “strengths” reviewed above. However, the greatest concentration of opinions (31) focus on Town politics and administration. This is sobering and represents a distinct departure from the 1999 survey where “Town Government” received a 60% favorable response. Complaints include several dealing with perceived government incompetence, especially in money management, bias towards a few, and failure to uniformly enforce regulations. The first runner-up issue most often named or alluded to was a lack of destinations and or events held in Town where people could gather and socialize.

Question 21, “What is Lakeville’s most unattractive feature,” very specific things were cited by the 108 respondents. Consequently no one or two identical items consistently appeared in multiple replies. However, a few did recur. The Police Station appeared in 13, the Lakeville Hospital in 6, electric signs in 5, the rail station in 3, and the self storage on County Road in 2. However, a number of replies cited run-down, abandoned, or poorly maintained houses, yards or other buildings about the Town. In summary Lakeville’s most unattractive features seem to be the spots, widely scattered, where “tackiness” is perceived.

Question 22, Opportunities available – Clearly a difficult question for respondents as only 89 replied. It is also difficult to analyze for any consensus in direction. That the train station and adjacent area offer opportunities for commercial and population growth is certainly recognized. However, there is a great deal of concern, even fear, that it will not be controlled properly in such a way as to minimally impact other areas of Town, and not adversely effect Town budgets. A number of the more philosophical views expressed the feeling that maybe we still have a chance to upgrade via “smart growth”; but, “it all needs to be planned out very carefully, and we have yet to see the Town do that kind of thing very well.”

Question 23, another free-form question, asked the respondents to name the threats they saw in Lakeville’s future – 120 replied. Of these, not surprisingly, 50 cited “growth” and “development.” However, 24 mentioned money problems, including budget, fiscal management controls, etc. and 12 brought up school issues.

Nine addressed the Middleboro casino and associated impacts. These four key issues represented 80% of the responses received; the remaining 20% included a broad spectrum of other issues.

Question 24 attempted to have the respondent focus specifically upon concerns within the area of preservation, open space and recreational issues. It was worded to imply a philosophical reply was desired. Almost no responsive answers were received. However, insightful answers to this question require the same knowledge and background that would have been needed to adequately answer Question 14, which, as was discussed above, seems to be seriously lacking in our respondents. Again a broad educational outreach program in land protection strategies is clearly needed before this question can be adequately addressed.

Replies to Question 25 make an exceptionally clear statement. If we wish to reach our respondents via the news media, use the Middleboro Gazette. No other newspaper or news source comes close in coverage. Of 118 replies, 42 mentioned the Middleboro Gazette by name, 28 others said "local newspaper," which strongly implies the Gazette as well. Very few respondents named the New Bedford or Brockton papers, and only 2 mentioned the Comcast TV channel.

Additional question areas that respondents would have liked to have seen explored more thoroughly (Question 26), included CPA adoption and opportunity for the respondents to volunteer help to the Town. Also, some would have liked to see some more specific questions regarding tax revenues and Town spending priorities.

Summary of final comments: "Keep it rural, nice and low key!"

The 2008 survey is included in this document as Appendix A.

## **STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2006**

The Commonwealth's 2006 document, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), studies the State's open space and recreational resources on a statewide and a regional basis. As part of the revision process for Lakeville's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Open Space and Recreational Committee reviewed the contents of this document to examine the Town's alignment of findings, needs, and goals with the State's findings, needs, and goals.

Lakeville is located in the southeastern region of the State; it is the southern terminus of the Old Colony MBTA/MBCR Lakeville commuter line, is contiguous to I-495 along its northeast border, is bisected by Rt. 140 (a main artery north from New Bedford to Rt. 24 and Taunton), and is touched by Rt. 44 at its northernmost

region. As such, Lakeville has experienced both growth and traffic but was not specifically named among similar communities that enjoy these dubious advantages. Despite this, Lakeville is fortunate to enjoy open space and recreational areas that offer both scenic vistas and genuine outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. These include four golf courses, parks, ample ponds and lakes for water recreation, and playing fields both at the school facilities and Town parks.

Lakeville residents' preferred activities compare well with those cited in the SCORP for the Southeastern region. For example, Lakeville residents ranked "walking" as the most preferred outdoor activity, and the SCORP likewise indicates 57.1% of respondents in the Southeast (and 56.5% of the respondents statewide) prefer walking.

Similarly, Lakeville residents' second-most preferred category of outdoor recreation is wildlife and bird watching (no doubt because of the eagles around the Great Ponds); the SCORP study shows that watching wildlife and studying nature was the second-most preferred passive recreational activity in Southeastern Massachusetts. 23.7% of respondents prefer this activity (and 21/7% statewide).

Also prominent on Lakeville's list of preferred recreational activities is a broad category that includes biking, picnics, parks, and beaches. "Biking" is indicated as the second-most preferred trail-based activity in the SCORP analysis.

Lakeville residents enjoy water sports on Long Pond (which extends into neighboring Freetown); residents can launch power boats at a ramp on Rt. 18 in Freetown. Lakeville residents can also enjoy swimming at Clear Pond, which is designed with children in mind and also has a life guard and concession stand. Admittance to Clear Pond is restricted to residents. It is noteworthy that the SCORP shows "Beaches or Shoreline" (Lakeville obviously has no ocean waterfront) as the highest experience with Southeastern residents (at 66.6%) and "Lakes or Ponds" as the fourth-highest experience (at 44.4%).

Lakeville has four active golf courses. The SCORP indicates that "Parks and Golf Courses" is the second-most experienced activity in Southeastern Massachusetts, at 59%. In addition, Lakeville has a number of parks and conservation areas, including Betty's Neck, which is maintained strictly in its natural state.

When residents were asked to identify perceived needs for outdoor recreation, the largest single category of responses was for trails or paths. The SCORP survey shows that overall in the Southeastern region, a desire for additional "Trails or Greenways" is about midway down the list, at about 30%. Lakeville's response was small (fewer 30 respondents asked for more paths or trails), which means it is probably not statistically significant – and might explain why it is not aligned with the State's survey results. However, it might also in-

dicade that Lakeville residents are responding to the relatively few sidewalks and walking paths in Town when compared to the region in general.

#### ***A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs***

Structured responses to a question where residents were asked to respond quantitatively to a list of resource types have been analyzed to produce the following ranking. First and foremost, preservation of all resource types was very strongly supported: The relative priorities can be characterized by clear breakpoints in the scoring data.

##### *Preserving Lakeville's rural quality by protecting:*

###### **Top Priority:**

- Watershed areas, water resources
- Woodland, forest
- Rural quality
- Open land and space

###### **High Priority:**

- Wildlife habitats
- Wetlands
- Farms and farmland
- Public recreation areas

###### **Priority Items:**

- Historic buildings and sites
- Scenic areas
- Beaches
- Archaeological sites

The consistently high rankings were supported by responses which indicated that Lakeville's most liked aspects were rural character, lakes, open spaces, woodlands and resources.

#### **Surface Water Protection Needs**

The condition of Lakeville's water supply ponds is influenced by our groundwater quality, as the Ponds are largely groundwater fed (see below for a discussion of groundwater protection needs). Additionally, surface water quality is affected by land uses directly adjacent to ponds, rivers and streams.

Fortunately, large tracts of protected land owned by New Bedford and Taunton surrounding the water supply ponds contribute significantly to the high quality of the water resource. The remaining gaps in the protected



lands coverage surrounding the ponds are recognized as high priorities for conservation, to benefit Lakeville residents who live and travel along the pond shores, the cities that withdraw water and, particularly, the complex biological systems dependent on the aquatic resource. The acquisition of Betty's Neck and resulting CR's have made a significant and positive impact on land preservation and water protection.

Concern has been expressed that excessive surface water withdrawal from the Ponds may contribute to a drawdown, threatening the viability of the aquatic ecosystem. The cities of Taunton and New Bedford have been required by MA DEP to establish the actual safe yield of surface water from the Ponds. This has been done for the Assawompset/Pocksha/Quittacas/Long Pond system and for Elders Pond. Taunton Water Department's own estimates of the potential yield of Elders Pond (US ACOE, 1995) do not support the permitted draw. The safe yields need to be accurately determined, and the permits should reflect these data.

In addition, it has been suggested that the excessive withdrawal of groundwater in regions which contribute to recharge of the ponds may affect the surface water level, and hence the safe yield from the ponds. The continued development and concomitant water use within the recharge area of the ponds is a critical factor which must be addressed by those interested in sustaining present yield from the ponds. Research is clearly needed in this area, but a prudent course in any case is a strong program of regional water conservation.

### **Groundwater Protection**

As most of the Town of Lakeville relies on private wells, protection of groundwater is essential. The 70,000 square foot minimum lot size provides some protection for private wells in newer developments. However, in areas of dense development, some private wells have been contaminated and pose potential or actual health risks. For these areas, the viability of both community water supplies and community waste treatment should continue to be explored. Another strategy that has been suggested is for the town to purchase properties in these areas as they are offered for sale and keep the land as open space, thus reducing over time the density of septic systems.

Current water quality and yield testing would be required to assess the feasibility of the development of a municipal groundwater supply. Many activities have occurred atop Lakeville's aquifers in the past 30 years, some of which may have compromised the groundwater quality. The purchase of Betty's Neck, which benefited both New Bedford and Taunton in the protection of their water supply, allowed for an allotment of water for Lakeville. An agreement with Taunton to process and deliver drinking water to some Lakeville residents is close to completion. The construction of a water tower was required to add additional customers and much needed water pressure to areas in town already served by municipal water. As we anticipate the future need for clean water, it would be prudent to explore the option of a municipal groundwater supply and apply land conservation measures to areas overlying suitable aquifers, even if there is no immediate need for

withdrawal. Plans for large-scale groundwater extraction, however, must always consider potential impacts to surface water systems, including wetlands. A common threat to ecologically significant kettleponds, for example, is overdraw from the underlying aquifer.

Groundwater quantity has become a concern in Lakeville. In late 2000, shallow private wells in the North Precinct Street area ran dry as the groundwater level measurably dropped. The excavation of a deep pond in sand and gravel in neighboring East Taunton was the suspected cause. This scenario emphasizes the importance of strong regional planning, communication, and cooperation to protect a resource that spans town boundaries.

Although water resource protection is of primary relevance to open space planning, an exhaustive examination of the complex technical issues surrounding use of Lakeville's water resources is beyond the scope of this document. The Town has established a Water Study Board to deal with these issues.

### **Woodland and Forest Protection**

Lakeville has few remaining areas of large, contiguous forest, a scarce and ecologically valuable resource region-wide. Beyond the fragmentation of forest caused by a network of roadways, the remaining blocks of forest of various sizes are developed first along the road frontage, further reducing the size of the forested patch, and creating the visual impression of uniform suburban development rather than rural forest land. Further, as land is subdivided, privately owned forested open space becomes increasingly inaccessible for general community passive recreation.

There is a stated need for the protection of large, accessible blocks of forest in Lakeville separate from but related to the general need for protection of wildlife habitat (see below).

### **Wildlife Habitat Protection**

The two largest and most significant wildlife habitat areas, the Assawompset Pond Complex and the Assonet Cedar Swamp, both of which support rare species, are largely protected by the cities of Taunton and New Bedford, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, respectively. However, sizeable unprotected tracts remain within these core areas, as well as in other regions of significant wildlife habitat. Intrusions of developed land detract significantly from the value of protected natural areas. Large, round, unfragmented habitats support the most biological diversity, including, particularly, those sensitive species least tolerant of human impacts. Thus, unprotected, undeveloped sites within areas which have been identified as significant wildlife habitats are ranked highly as priorities for preservation.

For a variety of reasons, no single natural area in densely developed Eastern Massachusetts is large enough

to sustain its full complement of biological diversity. Simple islands of habitat surrounded by a non-natural environment cannot support wildlife over the long term. An extensive, connected network of suitable habitat is required, for example, to allow re-establishment of populations after crashes due to the combination of natural environmental factors and the vagaries of demography. Connectedness has long been recognized as a basic tenet of conservation planning. However, it is critical that connecting pieces not be as wide as possible, but swaths amply wide to provide quality habitat in their own right. Ongoing efforts between Lakeville and its neighboring towns should be pursued more vigorously to promote the preservation of large open tracts of land overlapping town borders. The Regional Open Space Plan (see Appendix E) addresses concerns and offers suggestions for maintaining and protecting the rapidly disappearing undeveloped land in the Lower Taunton River Watershed. This land links the Bio-reserve in Fall River and Freetown to Lakeville's Assonet Cedar Swamp, Rocky Woods and the Assawompset Pond Complex and extends the Copicut Greenway (that presently runs from the Taunton River through the Bio-reserve) eastward, all the way to the Plymouth-Carver-Wareham area.

### **Wetlands and Floodplain Protection**

Although wetlands are largely protected through the MA Wetlands Protection Act, permitted disturbance can still occur within the 100-foot buffer zone. The long-term health of a wetland often requires an extensive upland buffer zone to maintain hydrologic and water quality regimes. Lakeville should follow the example of other communities in enacting a local wetlands by-law to increase protection over that offered by the state Act.

Similarly, 100-year floodplains are subject to Lakeville's Flood Plain overlay district, which encourages agriculture, forestry, recreation, and similar uses. The protection afforded by this zoning district needs to be evaluated.

### **Protection of Agricultural Lands**

Land in agriculture is one of the ways in which Lakeville retains its rural character. Although a major producer of crops in the 19th century, farmland has since been lost, first to vegetational reversion to the native forest, and more recently to conversion to residential subdivision. An examination of the Zoning and Land Use Map reveals that numerous farms have been lost between 1991 and 2009, as evidenced by the mapping of recent subdivision roads onto 1991 agricultural fields. Chapter 61A enrollment does not prevent these conversions when development pressures are high, buildable lots are extremely valuable, and conservation land acquisition funding is scarce.

Preservation of the rural farmsteads depends upon encouragement of continuing agricultural activities through outreach programs which highlight advantages of Agricultural Preservation, Conservation Restriction

tions and the like, as well as examination of zoning practices and tax incentives for farmers to continue work. The Town needs to work with organizations, such as Wildlands Trust, to find ways to help our remaining farmers protect their farmland for future generations.

### **Historic Buildings and Sites**

The Lakeville Historical Commission (LHC) has identified certain areas that are of particular importance to their historical preservation efforts. These areas include several of the same sites that the Open Space Committee has inventoried as scenically significant. In particular, the Tack Factory Neighborhood, Pierce Avenue area and Assawompset area have multiple resources that are important to preserve from both standpoints. Since the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Pierce Avenue has been documented as a historic area and as a Scenic Road. Assawompset's scenic views and collection of historic municipal buildings has become our town center and a potential historic district. With the loss of farmland to residential subdivisions, Lakeville is seeing the disappearance of a great historical asset - not only the land, but the entire farm complex. These farms were once the foundation of Lakeville's rural character.

Since fewer non-subdivision single home buildable lots are available, we are seeing an increase in the demolition of historic homes in Lakeville, new homes being built on their sites. The Lakeville Historical Commission would like to educate potential buyers of historically significant houses of their value to the town's history. Several of these houses have recently been lost to demolition as subdivisions and new houses continue to chip away at Lakeville's old farms and remaining open spaces.

A primary focus of the LHC has been to educate residents on the importance of preserving historic and pre-historic resources. A series of informational lectures called "A Lakeville Perspective" was started in the Spring of 2008 to give residents an overview of both the town's history and the value of the town's old homes and other historic resources, including our cemeteries. In conjunction with the Cemetery Commission, LHC is in the process of promoting a Friends of Lakeville's Cemeteries group to assist the town in the care and maintenance of these important links to our town's past.

At the request of the LHC, the Board of Selectmen has recently voted to appoint a study committee to investigate the desirability of establishing a local Historic District at the intersection of Routes 105 and 18. This area, used for community gatherings such as the arts festival and local fundraising events, has become the cultural center of Lakeville. It includes the picturesque Old Town Hall and Old "Carnegie" Library, now a coffee shop and our new library. If designated as a historic district it would be the first such district in town.

The LHC would like to see the historic Old "Carnegie" Library, the Town Office Building/former Taunton Pumping Station, Thompson Hill Cemetery and the Pond Cemetery added to the National Register. Both Thompson

Hill and the Pond Cemetery have already been deemed eligible for listing. The Historical Commission will need to prepare nominations papers for these properties for the process to move forward.

Lakeville is well known to have been one of the most densely populated Native American settlements in Southeastern Massachusetts. The large complex of waterways, including the Great Ponds and Nemasket River, allowed for plentiful fishing and easy travel throughout the area. An Archaeological Sensitivity map and report of these and other significant sites has long been a goal of the Lakeville Historical Commission. As buildout of the Town continues it becomes vitally important to preserve and protect these archaeologically and historically valued assets. For a complete list of Lakeville's Historic Assets see Appendix J.

### ***B. Summary of Community Needs***

Residents expressed a reasonably high level of satisfaction with most of Lakeville's public services and recreational facilities. As can be seen from Table 9, Recreational Needs Analysis, Lakeville meets or exceeds all national standards for recreational facilities with the exception ice hockey. Lakeville does not have an ice skating rink of any kind. This need and other derived needs suggested by public comment are discussed below.

**Table 9. Recreational Needs Analysis**

Population of Lakeville, 2010: 10,602

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Recommended # per population</b>	<b># needed based on 2010 population of 10,602</b>	<b>Existing # of facilities within the park system</b>
Basketball	1 per 5,000	2	4
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	0	0
Tennis	1 per 2,000	5	3 TWC, 9 Lakeville Athletic Club
Volleyball	1 per 3,000	3	3 (outdoor)
Baseball	1 per 3,000	3	6
Softball	1 per 3,000	3	3
Football	1 per 20,000	0*	0*
1/4 mile track	1 per 20,000	0	0
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1	3
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	1 (beach)
Hiking trail	1 per 2,500	4	ca.6 miles
Golf Course	18 holes / 25,000	0	3 public, 1 private**

\* Regional facility is used. \*\* Privately owned courses Sources of standards: Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association; National Park Service.

Recreational facilities located at the schools are not available for public use and are not included in Table 9. Existing school facilities include: 7 basketball courts (3 outdoor, 4 indoor), 2 field hockey fields, 6 tennis courts, 4 indoor volleyball courts, 3 baseball fields, 3 softball fields, 1 football field, 1 quarter mile track, 5 soccer fields, 1 indoor swimming pool and a one half mile hiking trail.

### **Walking Trails**

Lakeville has about six miles of hiking/nature trails in four areas: off Pickens St. at the Vigers Conservation Area, behind Assawompset School, at Ted Williams Camp, at Betty's Neck and the Assawompset Pond Complex. A hiking or nature trail, narrow enough to be non-disruptive to the continuous canopy, could be constructed on the Howland Road town-owned parcel, where the highest point in town may provide views. Recently suggestions have been made about building a wind turbine on this site to provide energy for the schools next door.

The lack of sidewalks in Lakeville may inhibit walkers and joggers who prefer paved surfaces, as do parents with strollers. Establishment of sidewalks, especially in areas where a store or other destination is located, would lessen dependence on car travel over short distances, as well as offer recreational opportunity. Preservation of scenic features such as large, mature trees and stone walls must be an integral part of the planning and construction process for new sidewalks.

### **Boating**

The Nemasket River is regionally renowned for excellent flatwater paddling. The development of parking at Vaughan Street has augmented that at Old Bridge Street, providing easy access to the river. Public awareness of the scenic and ecological value of the Nemasket would increase support for improved protection of river shoreline areas and upland buffers. Use of motor boats on the Nemasket River, however, is disruptive to wildlife and paddlers.

The only public canoe/kayak access to the Ponds is at Tamarack Park. Long Pond is the only pond in the Great Ponds/Assawompset Pond Complex where canoes and kayaks are allowed. A public boat ramp is located in Freetown at the south end of Long Pond. Motor boats are also allowed on Long Pond, but cannot use Tamarack Park as access.

Boating is allowed for shoreline residents only on Assawompset and Pocksha Ponds. All boats used on Assawompset and Pocksha must have a special permit.

### **Swimming**

Clear Pond is a beautifully designed and well-managed facility, and the dedication and creativity of the staff make it an invaluable recreational resource for the town. Nonetheless, there has been public concern expressed about the water quality there, given its proximity to the former landfill, and Clear Pond's hydrological connection to the groundwater. At this time, post-closure monitoring has revealed no groundwater contamination resulting from the former landfill (see section 4G-5).

### **Playgrounds**

Lakeville's six existing playgrounds, at Clear Pond Park, Ted Williams Camp, Assawompset School (two), G.R. Austin Intermediate School and John Paun Park are heavily used, and in need of on-going repair and maintenance.

### **Ice Skating**

Although Clear Pond Park was listed in the 1981 Lakeville Open Space and Recreation Plan as an area for ice-skating, the Park has been largely closed during the relatively warm recent winters. If public skating on a pond is limited by the vagaries of weather, an alternative may be an outdoor flooded area at Ted Williams Camp for public use.

### **Hunting**

Lakeville has a strong hunting tradition. As open space becomes more fragmented, there are fewer areas where hunting is permitted. This not only represents a loss of recreational use of the land, but also has another effect significant to open space preservation: Hunters play the role of the large predators now missing in our local ecosystem. Many animal populations, without natural or human control, multiply beyond the limit of their food supply, and can cause permanent damage to entire natural communities. In particular, deer over-browsing can quickly alter the species composition and complexity of a forested area, affecting its general wildlife value.

The Vigers Conservation Area, off Pickens Street, and trails around the Assawompset Pond Complex are open in season to hunting. Vigers allows for bow hunting only. Hunting on the town-owned Betty's Neck property is only by special permit. Hunters share with bird watchers and other naturalists a strong connection to the natural world and a willingness to act to preserve it. It is in the interest of all proponents of open space to support their traditions. However, issues of safety do need to be addressed so that our open spaces can be enjoyed for many interests.

### **Equestrian trails**

Horseback riding was formerly more popular in Lakeville, when riders could use automobile roads without conflict, and when jeep trails through large areas of undeveloped forest were more common. Today, riders must share the road with an ever-growing number of cars and trucks, and many woods roads have given way to developed areas. The current recreational need for equestrian trails and the identification of suitable areas needs to be explored. Recently designated horseback riding trails have been identified on the Assawompset Pond Complex. Because the Ponds serve as a public water supply, it is important that horses stay away from the shoreline and have no direct access to the Ponds and their tributaries. Horseback riding ranked at the bottom of activities for Lakeville.

### ***C. Management Needs, Potential Changes of Uses***

Residents want to see Lakeville's rural quality and open space preserved, but clearly have no understanding of how to go about doing so or, for that matter, what is involved with care and maintenance of open space. 52 respondents out of 143 would purchase open space with Town funds, while 93 out of 149 would use Federal or State funds. 82 would support Open Space zoning and enact protective zoning, but only 68 out of 145 would support a restrictive building cap. Only 30% would pay user fees for using Town recreational facilities. 47 % would vote for CPA.

### **Establishment of a Land Trust**

Although open space preservation is broadly supported in Lakeville, many residents are not aware of the status of land protection or, more importantly, strategies that can be used to establish preserves. It is critical that landowners are introduced to the array of options and tax benefits associated with the sale or charitable donation of interests in land.

This could be accomplished by establishing a local private land trust. A town land trust might be viewed more favorably by potential donors. However, partnerships and alliances with established land trusts and conservation organizations should be explored. For example, the Wildlands Trust has been very active in assisting residents with land protection through CRs and have accepted land donations from landowners.

### **Perpetual Protection of Open Space**

As summarized in Section 5, a growing number of parcels in Lakeville are protected in perpetuity. All parcels currently owned or managed by the Conservation Commission or Parks Commission, as well as other town-owned parcels to be kept as wildlife habitat or recreation land, are natural candidates for protection through perpetual conservation restrictions. Since the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Conservation Restrictions (CR's) by private citizens and the Town have been placed on several large and small tracts of land, thus protecting open fields, forested land and wetlands. There is a need for a systematic way to track such restric-



tions to be sure they are properly monitored and maintained as well as a need to educate the public on the importance of such restrictions as a way to preserve Lakeville's rapidly disappearing rural integrity.

### **Administrative**

Meetings of several important boards and commissions are frequently scheduled to run simultaneously. Scheduling arrangements should be made to allow concerned citizens to take an active role in community service. Also, as the town continues to grow we should encourage residents to become more active as volunteers on town committees.

### **Scenic Resources Management**

Lakeville enjoys a wide variety of viewscape types, which have been inventoried above as a part of this planning process. Their diversity presents several management needs. All the best over-water views encompass some non-Lakeville shoreline. It is, therefore, incumbent that joint management associations be developed with neighboring towns to ensure the views' preservation. The same is true with the unique riverine vistas that occur exclusively along the Nemasket River.

Preservation of the rural farmsteads depends upon encouragement of continuing agricultural activities through outreach programs which highlight advantages of Agricultural Preservation, Conservation Restrictions and the like, as well as examination of zoning practices and tax incentives for farmers to continue work. The Town needs to work with organizations to find ways to help our remaining farmers protect their farmland for future generations.

At Town Meeting in 2002 the Open Space Committee joined the Lakeville Historical Commission to successfully promote the designation of several scenic roadways in Lakeville. Lakeville currently has seven designated scenic roadways: Pierce Avenue, Crooked Lane, Long Point Road, Mill, Southworth, Kingman and Old Main Streets. While Scenic Road designation is appropriate for the protection of selected areas, others would benefit from implementation of some coordination procedure which would require an aesthetics review by the Planning Board, or the Open Space Committee, prior to the Highway Department's improvement of any public way in the town. In addition, regular maintenance might include removal or pruning of foreground brush and small trees along roadways with obstructed views. The Town would benefit from the enactment of its own Scenic Road By-law.

### **Night Sky Management**

The use of full-cut-off fixtures in residential and commercial structures provides several important benefits to both the public and the environment. Such fixtures minimize the disruption (and potential destruction) of sensitive nocturnal wildlife habitats. Moreover, in addition to environmental and energy concerns, the im-

pact of light-trespass on the quality of the night sky gives rise to the term 'light pollution', and for good reason. In nature, there are few domains as rich and abundant in beauty, scientific detail, and educational value as that of the night sky. From the most primitive tribes to the most advanced civilizations that have walked the Earth, the heavens have been an important part of human culture. It is only with the appropriate by-laws that both the local environment and the astronomical/aesthetic resources of the night sky can be preserved for current and future generations. At the June 2007 Annual Town Meeting the Town passed the Outdoor Lighting By-law prepared by the Planning Board. A review of that by-law is needed to better deal with existing night sky/lighting issues.

### **Recreational Management**

Plans for revisions, repairs, and enhancements to Lakeville's recreational facilities focus mainly on three parks: Ted Williams Camp, Clear Pond Park, and John Paun Park.

At the Ted Williams Camp (TWC), work began in the fall 2010 to rebuild and enlarge the so-called Commissary Building, the largest structure on the property. The Commissary Building is large enough to serve many Town and other functions, but has in recent years begun to show its age and wear. In addition to much needed repairs, the building will be enlarged to accommodate a meeting room and a larger kitchen. A significant focus will be to ensure that the Building meets all building codes, including ADA requirements.

The labor needed to repair the Commissary Building will be donated by the carpentry and electrical students from the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School in Rochester, MA. Lakeville is one of the five member towns belonging to Old Colony. Materials and supplies for the renovation will be funded by the sale of gravel from an adjacent gravel pit on the TWC property.

Two additional athletic fields are planned at TWC (football and lacrosse) in addition to the building renovations. Although the fields were originally planned to be near the gravel pit, it was discovered that the area is a breeding ground for turtles, so the location for the fields was moved next to Bedford Street (Rt. 18), across from Crooked Lane. Lakeville has received a permit from National Heritage for these fields at the new location. New on-field sanitary facilities are planned next to the new athletic fields.

At this writing, the Park Commission is discussing walking trails through TWC. At John Paun Park, renovations are planned for fences and the athletic field. At Clear Pond Park, an expansion of facilities is planned to accommodate a modest number of campers, including those with tents and with RVs. This expansion will make Clear Pond more accessible and is also expected to generate revenue. Renovations to the beach and facilities are scheduled to address the damage caused by the flood in spring 2010 (which kept the park closed for the 2010 season). Also, the mini-golf course will be renovated and enlarged for the enjoyment of children.

## 8. Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were compiled from all available sources of public input and two recent planning documents, the Regional Open Space Plan and the Town of Lakeville Priority Development & Protection Areas, both prepared with the assistance of SRPEDD. We are grateful to SRPEDD for coordinating the development of these two documents. Our intent has been to blend all the various statements of need that have been received in such a way that each is embraced by one of our stated goals.

Examination of the objectives, which follow, should reveal all the specific issues to be addressed in reaching the larger goals. Goals 1 and 2, preserving Lakeville's community character and providing a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities, almost go without saying. The outreach objective expressed in Goal 3 stems from a real need to bring into public view the planning and preservation tools needed to accomplish Goals 1 and 2, and to sustain broad community support for these goals. Finally, Goals 4 and 5, in addition to providing a process and an administrative and legal framework from which to operate, address the chronic problem of non-implementation of Plans.

### ***Goal 1: Preserve the community character of Lakeville.***

***Objective 1:*** Protect our water resources

***Objective 2:*** Retain wildlife habitat: particularly those of high quality

***Objective 3:*** Promote retention of agricultural landscape, small farm viability

***Objective 4:*** Preserve landscape, cultural, historical and archaeological integrity

***Objective 5:*** Establish a measure of control over invasive exotic plants within Lakeville

### ***Goal 2: Maximize recreational opportunities for the citizens of Lakeville.***

***Objective 1:*** Meet the recreational needs of the entire population of the town, youth through senior citizens, including citizens with special needs

***Objective 2:*** Promote responsible, and where appropriate, multiple use of open space in Town

### ***Goal 3: Through partnerships with local private and public groups and outside agencies, develop outreach tools that will promote protection of and appropriate use of open space.***

***Objective 1:*** Make available to the Town's citizens resource material from various public, private and educational groups

***Objective 2:*** Promote and develop programs that foster appreciation of open space, especially among young people

**Goal 4: Develop and maintain a priority protection, retention and land acquisition data base; apply data to land protection.**

**Objective 1:** Complete assessment of open land in Lakeville and develop criteria for prioritization

**Objective 2:** Look at regional links for land acquisition - See Regional Open Space Plan Appendix E

**Goal 5: Create administrative and regulatory structure that provides for effective future planning with inter-board cooperation.**

**Objective 1:** Maintain an effective standing Open Space Committee and a continuously updated Open Space and Recreation Plan

**Objective 2:** Work with various Town boards, commissions and committees to review by-laws, rules, regulations and policies to make sure they encourage open space and resource protection and facilitate recreational opportunities; recommend changes when and where necessary

**Objective 3:** Develop meaningful rules and regulations for publicly owned open space

**Objective 4:** Monitor funds dedicated to open space and recreation purposes

## 9. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2012

The following Action Plan elaborates on our goals and objectives, listing specific action items to be accomplished by particular parties within a given time frame. Many of the actions are carry-overs from the 2001 plan, but in light of some change in focus many have been added. It should be noted that the following proposed actions from the 2001 plan were completed. The Heritage Landscape Inventory was done, the Senior Citizen Center was built, the slab bridges were located, and scenic roads were designated. More important is the purchase of Betty's Neck and the resulting conservation restrictions which will protect our most precious water resources and scenic features.

For site-specific work, the Action Plan Layout Map shows the immediate open space and recreation program priorities, as derived from this Plan. It should be noted that there are many significant parcels outside of these core focus areas. As opportunities arise, for example, if a parcel comes out of Chapter status, it should always be evaluated on its own merit in addition to its relationship to the Action Plan Map. Open space and recreation planning is a dynamic process, and undoubtedly new information will come to light that will require adaptive changes. It should also be noted that some of the goals and objectives in this seven-year plan are not site specific but town wide.

*The following types of actions are shown on the Action Plan Map:*

### Natural Resource Protection Areas

These are large focus areas of primary significance to the protection of water resources, biological diversity, geologic features, etc. In most cases, preservation of these large areas would also serve to protect other attributes, such as scenic views, historic and archaeological resources, and passive recreational opportunities. Protection of these areas can be accomplished using a variety of techniques, including transfer of the interests in land by willing grantors (fee simple acquisition, conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, etc.), and potential new zoning by-laws, rules, and regulations adopted at Town Meeting.

### Scenic Roads and Potential Historic District

Formal designation of these features is the beginning of a strong program to protect and develop appreciation of our scenic and historic resources. To date, Lakeville has designated seven roads as scenic roads in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 15C, but has not adopted its own Scenic Road By-law. These designations should be supported with by-law adoption at Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen is currently looking for volunteers to serve on a Historic District Study Committee. This Study Committee will focus its attention on the intersection of Bedford Street (Rte 18) and Main Street (Rte. 105), the area that is now

considered Lakeville's Town Center. Future plans could extend this historic district north along Main/Old Main Street and south along Bedford Street to Pond Cemetery (LAK.804 on Lakeville's Inventory of Historic Structures and Sites - Appendix J)

#### Site for Development of Recreation Plan/Guide

All Lakeville's parks and recreational areas are in need of Master Plans to guide their protection and development. Brochures or maps for all of these properties controlled by the Park Commission and the Conservation Commission would foster appreciation and support of ongoing conservation efforts.





**Table 10. Seven-Year Action Plan**

**Goal 1: *Preserve the community character of Lakeville* Objective 1: *Protect our water resources***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for potential assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
1a. Find and take steps to eliminate sources of pollution and degradation, especially around the Ponds and water resources, through regulation and education	Board of Health, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Open Space Committee, DPW	Mass Highway, EOEEA Basin Team, New Bedford and Taunton Water Departments, mayors and City Councils; SRPEDD, DEP, others as necessary	2012-2018	MASS Environmental Trust Grant for education Volunteer subcommittee
1b. Advocate for sustainability of new water withdrawal permits from Assawompset Pond Complex to assure healthy flow level of the Nemasket River	Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Open Space Committee	Mass Fisheries and Wildlife, Audubon	2012	Volunteer advocates
1c. Promote efforts of new regional committees to study APC dam management and water level	Board of Selectmen, Open Space Committee	DEP, Taunton and New Bedford Water Departments, towns surrounding the APC	2010-2012	Task Force working on funding Sources - State Representatives
1d. Enhance protection of water resources by ensuring their correct designation i.e. perennial streams and Great Ponds	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	DEP, US Board of Geographic Names, residents and community groups	2012	Volunteers



**Goal 1: Preserve the community character of Lakeville Objective 2 Retain wildlife habitat**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for potential assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
2a. Maintain areas of intact habitat (large, connected high quality habitat)	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen	EOEEA, local land trusts and conservation organizations, neighboring towns, regional planning agencies	On-going	MA Land and Water Conservation Fund, State and local land trusts
2b. Update documenting wildlife and special habitats; encourage involvement of local citizens	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission	MA DFW and NHESP, education and conservation organizations; local schools; MACC, APC management Team,	2012-2018	Volunteers, Lakeville ConCom
2c. Create and implement forest plan for town forest areas, including Betty's Neck, Vigers Conservation Area, and the night soil repository area.	Town Forest Committee, Open Space Committee	DCR's Bureau of Forestry	2013	DCR Forest Stewardship Program
2d. Protect through education and restriction Lakeville's unique natural communities	Conservation Commission, Park Commission, Open Space Committee	Mass Fish and Wildlife, NHESP, neighboring towns that share the resource, environmental groups such as Audubon, APC Management Team	2010 and beyond	Volunteer effort and materials from Mass Wildlife, NHESP and environmental groups

***Goal 1: Preserve the community character of Lakeville    Objective 3: Promote retention of the agricultural landscape and small farm viability***

Action	Responsible Department	Agencies for possible assistance	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
3a. Use most current soil survey to give priority to the protection of prime agricultural soils	Open Space Committee	Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)	2012	Volunteers
3b. Connect farmers with resources and potential partners, including Chapter 61 and APR, to facilitate preservation of existing farmland and fields	Assessor's Office; Open Space Committee; Selectmen	SEMAP, DFA, USDA	On-going	Volunteers

**Goal 1: Preserve the community character of Lakeville Objective 4: Preserve landscape, cultural, historic and archaeological integrity.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
4a. Create maps and other materials to promote importance of preservation of historic and prehistoric resources, especially enhanced cultural landscapes	Lakeville Historical Commission.	MA Historical Commission, DCR	2014	Lakeville Historical Commission, Lakeville Historical Society, Volunteers
4b. Investigate a historic district for intersection of Rtes 105 & 18	Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission, Planning Board	Massachusetts Historical Commission	2012	Lakeville Historical Commission, Lakeville Historical Society, Volunteers
4c. Form Friends group to assist Town with survey, care and maintenance of cemeteries	Cemetery Commission, Historical Commission		2012	Lakeville Historical Commission, Lakeville Historical Society, Volunteers
4d. Inventory town's street and park trees	Open Space, Board of Selectmen, Tree Warden		2012	Volunteers
4e. Through outreach to Ch. 61 land owners and neighboring towns, promote retention of large tracts of visibly assessable forest	Open Space Committee	Assessors' Office, boards in neighboring towns, DCR's Bureau of Forestry	2012-2015	Volunteers

4f. Establish some measure of control over invasive exotic plants within Lakeville	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, DPW, APC Management Team	New England Wildflower Society, garden clubs, scouts and other local volunteer groups, MDAR,	2010 and beyond	Americorp Community Service The Environment Advocates for Massachusetts SE (TEAMS), Volunteers
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***Goal 2: Maximize recreational opportunities for the citizens of Lakeville    Objective 1: Meet the recreational needs of the entire population of the town, youth through senior citizens, including citizens with special needs***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
1a. Prepare a master plan for all Town owned park and recreational properties including operating cost and maintenance schedule.	Park Comm., Open Space Comm., other town boards, commissions and committees as necessary.		2014	Town Funds
1b. Make all commercial developments pedestrian friendly	Planning Board, Open Space Committee		Ongoing	Commonwealth Capital Funds

**Goal 2: Maximize recreational opportunities for the citizens of Lakeville    Objective 2: Promote responsible, and, where appropriate, multiple, use of open space in Town**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Departments</b>	<b>Agencies for Possible Assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
2a. Develop a town trail/canoe/open space guide for all properties with public access	Open Space Comm.; Con. Comm.; Park Comm. , Board of Selectmen	EOEEA Basin Team; DCR, Greenways and Trails Demonstration Program, TRWA, conservation nonprofits	2015	Volunteer Fund Raising
2b. Develop a hiking trails plan for the Howland Road property.	Park Comm.; Open Space Comm.; Selectmen	DCR, Greenways and Trails Demonstration Program	2015	DCR Forest Stewardship Program
2c. Develop educational tool that prevents conflict between hunters and hikers	Open Space	Fisheries and Wildlife, APC Management Team	2013	Volunteers TEAMS

***Goal 3: Through partnerships with local public and private groups and with outside agencies, develop outreach tools that will promote protection of and appropriate use of open space Objective 1: Make available to the Town's citizens resource material from various public, private and educational groups***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
1a. Establish a reference library of outreach materials, (DVD's, etc.) in Town Office Building and at the Town Library.	Open Space Comm.; Con Comm.; Planning Board; other town boards, Lakeville Library and committees as necessary;	Trustees of Reservations; EOEEA; environmental organizations as Audubon, Wildlands Trust; Nature Conservancy; Trust for Public Land; State environmental agencies	2012	Volunteers Diana Slocombe Conservation Fund

***Goal 3: Through partnerships with local public and private groups and with outside agencies, develop outreach tools that will promote protection of and appropriate use of open space Objective 2 Promote and develop programs that foster appreciation of open space especially among young people***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for Possible Assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
2a. Facilitate, as possible, the Freetown/Lakeville School project to study kettlehole and other wetlands on Howland Road school property	Open Space, Conservation Comm	Freetown/Lakeville schools	To be determined by the school	Volunteers

2b. Create and sponsor programs that encourage the public, especially young people, to experience and protect the Town's special features, its open spaces, and their interconnectedness.	Open Space Committee	Local schools, local garden and environmental groups, youth groups	On-going	Volunteers
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***Goal 4: Develop a priority protection, retention and acquisition database for land in Lakeville; apply data to land protection. Objective 1: Complete an assessment of open land in Lakeville and prioritize***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
1a. Inventory open land, agricultural land and other lands of conservation, retention or acquisition interest and assess attributes.	Open Space Comm.; Con. Comm.; Assessors; Planning Board; other town agencies,	Technical assistance from EOEEA, USDA, SRPEDD, Wildlands Trust, etc.	2010-2012	Volunteers
1b. Select appropriate model for prioritization and ranking of open land and apply to Lakeville's existing open space	Open Space Comm.; Con. Comm.; Planning Board; other town boards, commissions and committees as necessary;	Technical assistance from EOEEA, USDA, SRPEDD, Wildlands Trust, TNC, etc.	2012	Volunteers

**Goal 4: Develop a priority protection, retention and acquisition database for land in Lakeville; apply data to land protection. Objective 2: Look at regional links for land acquisition.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
2a. Identify land that provides connectivity with regard for municipal boundaries and assess potential for regional conservation, recreation and preservation projects.	Open Space Committee	Land trusts; EOEEA, USDA; Audubon; etc neighboring towns, government agencies, conservation organizations, land trusts, Regional Open Space Alliance	2012	See Agencies listed
2b. Initiate regional conservation, recreation or preservation project deemed potential in 2a.	Open Space Committee	Land trusts; EOEEA, USDA; Audubon; etc neighboring towns, government agencies, conservation organizations, land trusts, Regional Open Space Alliance	2016	See Agencies listed

**Goal 5: Create administrative and regulatory structure that provides for effective open space planning with inter-board cooperation**

**Objective 1: Maintain an effective standing Open Space Committee and a continually updated Open Space and Recreation Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
1a. Actively recruit people to assist or serve as members	Selectmen; residents of Lakeville; others as necessary		On-going	Volunteers
1b. Publish on-line supplement to Open Space Plan to include 2010 census data when available	Open Space Committee		2012 DONE	Volunteers



***Goal 5: Create administrative and regulatory structure that provides for effective open space planning with inter-board cooperation. Objective 2: Work with town boards, commissions and committees to review bylaws, rules and regulations and policies to make sure they encourage open space and resource protection and facilitate recreational opportunities.; recommend changes when and where appropriate.***

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>Agencies for possible assistance</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Potential Funding Source</b>
2a. Promote creation of a Low-Impact-Development by-law	All town boards, commissions and committees	Technical assistance from SRPEDD, others as necessary.	2012	Volunteers
2b. Promote creation of open space development by-law	Planning Board, Open Space Committee	EOEEA, SRPEDD,	2012	Volunteers
2c. Promote creation of a Wetland-Protection By-law, including less disturbance in 100 foot buffer zone	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	Massachusetts Assoc. of Conservation Commissioners	2012	Volunteers
2d. Support recommendations for code reform from Horsley-Witten/ Taunton River Watershed Study	Open Space Committee; Code Reform Steering Committee	Horsley Witten Group,	2012	Volunteers
2e. Support creation of a local Scenic Road By-law	Open Space, Historical Commission	Mass. Historical	2012	Volunteers
2f Review outdoor lighting by-law and recommend changes needed to deal better with night sky issues	Planning Board	International Dark Sky Association	2012 DONE	Volunteers, members of the Open Space Committee
2g. Evaluate flood plain district in light of 2010 flooding	Conservation Commission	FEMA, DEP,	2012	Volunteers

***Goal 5: Create administrative and regulatory structure that provides for effective open space planning with inter-board cooperation***

***Objective 3: Develop meaningful rules and regulations for publicly owned open space***

Action	Responsible Department	Agencies for Possible Assistance	Time Frame	Potential Funding Source
3a. Create and publish guidelines and regulations with clear lines of authority	Board of Selectmen; Open Space	DCR	2013	Volunteers
3b. Establish methods of enforcement and appropriate penalties	Board of Selectmen; Open Space	DCR	2013	Volunteers

***Goal 5: Create administrative and regulatory structure that provides for effective open space planning with inter-board cooperation***

***Objective 4: Monitor funds dedicated to open space and recreation purposes***

Action	Responsible Department	Agencies for Possible Assistance	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources
4a. Establish clear accounting system for funds that come to Town as restitution for resource loss or for resource maintenance	Board of Selectmen; Open Space, Finance Committee, Town Accountant		2012	Volunteers

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS



OFFICE OF THE  
PLANNING BOARD

### TOWN OF LAKEVILLE

Town Office Building  
346 Bedford Street  
Lakeville, MA 02347

April 25, 2012

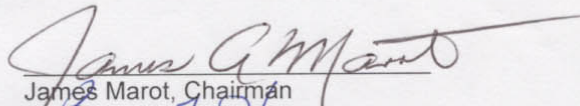
Lakeville Open Space Committee  
346 Bedford Street  
Lakeville, MA 02347

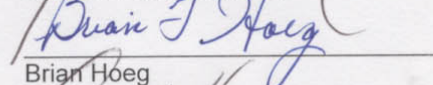
Re: Open Space Plan

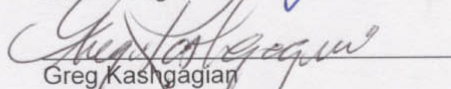
Dear Sir/Madam:

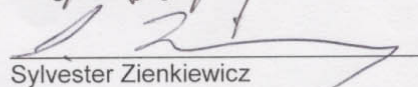
Please be advised that at the April 24, 2012 of the Lakeville Planning Board meeting it was voted to approve of the Open Space Plan as submitted by your committee.

We, as a board, wish to thank your committee for all its efforts on behalf of the Town of Lakeville.

  
James Marot, Chairman

  
Brian Hoeg

  
Greg Kashgarian

  
Sylvester Zienkiewicz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Bissonnette



OFFICE OF  
SELECTMEN  
TELEPHONE (508) 946-8803  
FAX (508) 946-0112

## Town of Lakeville

Town Office Building  
346 Bedford Street  
Lakeville, MA 02347

October 5, 2011

Linda Grubb, Chair  
Open Space Committee  
346 Bedford Street  
Lakeville, MA 02347

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan-2011

Dear Linda:

At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 3, 2011, the Selectmen voted to approve the 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Lakeville as submitted by the Open Space Committee.

The Board would also like to offer its appreciation to the members of the Open Space Committee for their months of hard work and commitment needed to complete the 2011 update of the Lakeville Open Space and Recreation Plan. The quality of the plan shows the tremendous dedication of your committee members, as well as, their pride in being a resident of Lakeville.

Sincerely,

LAKEVILLE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Stephen Olivier, Chairman

Derek A. Maksy

Scott T. Belliveau





Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District  
◀ 88 Broadway ▼ Phone (508)824-1367 ▼ FAX (508)823-1803 ▼ [ssmith@srpedd.org](mailto:ssmith@srpedd.org) ▼ Taunton, MA 02780 ▶

January 24, 2012

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Division of Conservation Services  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Lakeville, Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District's (SRPEDD) planning staff has recently completed a review of the Town of Lakeville's revised update of their Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The plan is consistent with SRPEDD's regional goals and objectives and in general compliance with DCS's Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. The plan also reflects the time, effort and research put into it by the Open Space Committee, volunteers, and town staff. The Seven Year Action Plan accurately reflects community needs and issues of concern per the community survey and as discussed at public events. The Town's Open Space Committee and staff continue to work with partners such as local land trusts, conservation groups, watershed, and trails advocates, as well as neighboring communities (ROSA, Appendix E) to promote: long-range planning for growth and conservation; responsible conservation and land use planning, including water resource protection, and; protection of the Town's cultural and historical resources that are so important not only to the town, but to the region and the Commonwealth as a whole.

SRPEDD supports the certification of the Lakeville Open Space and Recreation Plan, as revised. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Napolitano, our Environmental Program Director.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Smith  
Executive Director

SS

February 2, 2011

To: The Open Space Committee  
From: Lakeville Conservation Commission

Discussions of the Conservation Commission have produced the following requests of the Open Space Committee.

Search for ways to get funding for land and conservation restriction purchases.

The Open Space Committee has identified land parcels owned by the Conservation Commission. The Con. Com. would like to explore the possibilities of woodlot practice on these parcels as well as the establishment of trails.

An overview of Town development could identify wildlife "greenways". Recommendations could be made to the Planning Board to preserve these pathways. If wildlife can move from area to area through greenways, conflict with humans may be reduced.

For the Commission,  
Emery Orrall  
Chairman Lakeville Conservation Commission

Dear Sir(s) and/or Madam(s),

I was happy to find the draft of the Open Space and Recreation plan on the town website, positively thrilled to read its contents, and surprised to find my letter of April last year cited in the reference pages.

I feel lucky to be a resident of Lakeville, and look forward to future efforts in our town development. Thank you for making the Open Space Plan so easily accessible and inviting resident participation. I plan on being as involved as I possibly can.

One revision, if it is not too late... Would you mind correcting my name? It is Kulakovich, Sarah - not Susan. My youth projects - (Color Studio, Card Studio and Les Petit Plein Air Societe) - have come to be known more generally as: The Children's Painting Program.

I am trying to build a larger entity called: The Creative Caring Company, which will include the programs listed above, as well as larger installation projects, one of which I was hoping you would allow me to launch at Betty's Neck this summer. We - 10-30 children, their parents, and myself - currently paint each week for one hour in the field as a Plein Air, outdoor painting group. I would like to instead paint and hike all day for 5 days and create one exhibit... much like the exhibit we did last year at the Ted Williams Camp last summer. I have photos of that as well, if you are interested.

I will, of course, write again with a separate request. I am excited to show the the photos I have from Plein Air, and share stories of these children at work. They know that they are raising awareness to preserve open space and protect wildlife. Their work is phenomenal.

In Card Studio, we do things like paint pictures of polar bears and mail them as thank you cards to the U.S. Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries - for recently setting aside land in which the Polar Bears can safely reside. In Plein Air studio, the children send messages to the public about the beauty and importance of nature. We always keep the content age-appropriate, and non-controversial.

Some of the children have been with me 3 years and I feel I owe it to them to take this program to the next level. I would like the children to create an exhibit called Beautiful Lakeville, which is geared specifically at showcasing the natural beauty of our town. I would like there to be an information area where - with your permission of course - excerpts of your plan are highlighted.

I am attaching my resume and flyers so that you can see I do have some background in art and presentation design - and I do keep my programs open and all inclusive. Please feel free to visit the children and me at the Lakeville Library, where I hold studio classes during the winter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I do look forward to talking with you more in the hopefully not too distant future.

Best Regards,  
Sarah Kulakovich

10 Priscilla Drive  
Lakeville MA 02347  
(508) 946-0046  
sarah@bonfireproductions.com

From: Bruce LaFave <blafave@comcast.net>  
Date: December 14, 2010 10:38:02 PM EST  
To: Open Space <space@lakevillema.org>  
Subject: Lakeville Historical Commission Response to the 2011 Open Space & Recreation Plan

Greetings,

A copy of this response on town letterhead will be placed in your Town Office

Building mailbox.

Thank you for requesting our input. After looking at the paragraphs that apply to the Historical Commission, we are in agreement with the information that you have included in the plan. Our only area of concern is on page 122, paragraph four. The appropriate names for the two historic structures are the "Historic Town House - Town Hall" and the "Historic (Carnegie) Library." The official town records that cover the two structures do not reference "old" in either title.

Thank you for your attention to these details.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. J. LaFave

Lakeville Historical Commission Secretary



Email received January 22, 2010

Hello,

At our monthly meeting last night, we reviewed the 2001 plan. Our response to the page 89, Objective 4a was "accomplished."

Our response to the page 89, Objective 4b was "ongoing."

If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Nancy LaFave  
Secretary  
Lakeville Historical Commission

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In a message dated 11/20/2010

Hi Linda,

I just looked over the plan. I wish all the diagrams had been shown in the draft. However, I really appreciate the work behind the effort. It must have taken many, many hours.

I have one suggestion. On Table #9, please think about inserting a column that shows a projected count of facilities needed based on our town population. This is easily derived from the guideline ratios (like 1 per 5,000) divided into our latest town population.

Otherwise it looks great!

Regards,

Frank Sterrett

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