

Town of Lakeville
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2022

On December 1, 2022 the Open Space Committee held a meeting at the Lakeville Council on Aging Meeting room. The meeting was called to order by chairman Amy Knox at 6:30 pm. Members present were Amy Knox, Gary Flaherty, Brian Reynolds, Liz Nash, and Joan Gladu Morton. Guests were Mark Knox, William Hoeg and Marc Resnick. The meeting was not recorded by Lake Cam.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda order to allow Planning Board Chairman and Conservation Commission member Mark Knox to give updates on town matters. He discussed septic repairs to wetlands and wetlands to well distances. He also noted that the owner of the pig farm on Montgomery Street, which abuts the Tuomala parcel which has no access and is of interest to the Open Space Committee, has not gone before the Conservation Commission. Discussion ensued as to whether CPC funds could be used to purchase the Tuomala property. He also mentioned four hearings coming before the Planning board: The Lakeville Hospital site, the Lakeville Country Club subdivision plan, Rhode Island road and Crooked Lane plans and the Brew Pub on Bedford Street.

Other parcels considered significant for open space preservation were reviewed: The Franciscan land on Howland Road, which is surrounded by Audubon land, the Reynolds farm on Mill Street of which 17 acres out of the 69 acres will be kept and has a conservation restriction on it, and 300 acres on County Street, which is considered sacred land to the native archaeological survey on this tract. Also, several parcels of Chapter Land have been removed from protection. This process is defined by the statutes and the Open Space Committee would like to explore how the town could afford to purchase parcels such as these. Including the possibility of a non-profit land trust to adopt such properties.

Member Flaherty reported that a House Bill 538I was signed by the Governor on 11/17/2022, which ensures that you cannot have a loss of open space in a town. If conservation land is developed, it must be replaced by newly protected land.

Committee Liaisons

Assawompset Pond Complex- There were no updates.

Conservation Commission – The Nemasket River Dam needs updating due to its poor condition. Taunton is removing trees in that area. Herring Fisheries is removing weeds which are causing flooding and will allow herring to move more easily in the river.

Historical Commission – There was a meeting of the 175th Anniversary committee to continue planning for the celebration in 2028. Salute to those who served, a booklet honoring Lakeville's veterans, is being updated.

Updates

Chairman Knox received info and maps from Christine Cotsindis. Marc Resnick also has updated maps, so we will compile what we have to see if we need any others. We will continue to work on goals and objectives.

A motion was made by Chairman Knox and seconded by member Morton to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.