

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes January 3, 2018

Open Space Committee held a meeting on January 3, 2018 at the Lakeville Police Station Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Patrick Marshall, Chairman at 7:06 PM.

Members present: Linda Grubb, Patrick Marshall, Jesse Medford, Joan Morton and Mike Schroeder. Absent: Brian Reynolds.

Meeting was recorded by Joan Morton

Minutes of November 1, 2017 read and approved.

NHESP letter response - Committee reviewed the letter received from Natural Heritage/Mass Wildlife. Letter will be filed with these minutes. Concerning PH1093 and PH 1077 sites, Linda does not accept that there is nothing of significance in the 1,000 acre Mass Audubon's Assonet Cedar Swamp Wildlife Sanctuary. Committee will contact Heidi Ricci for Audubon's thoughts on NHESP letter. Committee will also attend Tuesday's Conservation Commission meeting.

Tamarack Park – People need to be aware that Tamarack Park needs attention. We could use volunteers to assist Mike Schroeder. Ask on Tamarack website.

New Steward for Vigers – Vigers Conservation Area is under the control of the Conservation Commission. Patrick spoke to Sarah; she is trying to form an ad hoc committee to take care of it. She now lives in New Hampshire. She has spoken to Donald Bissonnette re: this.

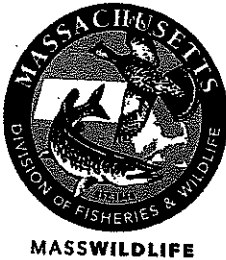
Winterfest- January 28 from 1 to 5 PM - Mike will put a display together. Wildlife map to locate what animals/plants residents have seen. Perhaps a watershed map could be found.

No Correspondence

Meeting night - First Wednesday of the month will remain our regular meeting night.

Next Meeting – February 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourn at 7:56 PM



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DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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Jack Buckley, *Director*

November 10, 2017

Patrick Marshall
Lakeville Open Space Committee
Town of Lakeville
346 Bedford Street
Lakeville, MA 02347

RE: 2017 NHESP Priority Habitat Map

Dear Mr. Marshall,

We received your letter dated 10/6/2017, where you outline specific questions concerning the newly released NHESP Atlas (effective August 1st, 2017). As you are aware, there are several reasons the Priority and Estimated Habitat mapping may have been eliminated in area that was previously mapped in the 2008 NHESP Atlas. These reasons include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mapping is eliminated for species removed from the MESA List. Since 2008 there have been twenty (20) species removed from the MESA list.
- Mapping is removed if it was delineated based on observations that have a last observation date older than 25 years (see 321 CMR 10.12(6)(3)). Division staff constantly review and update records and work with conservation partners to renew information on expiring observations. We also rely on information on rare species sightings submitted to our office via our online Vernal Pool and Rare Species (VPRS) Information System. (see: www.mass.gov/dfw/nhesp/vprs)
- Mapping is refined to exclude areas of existing development.
- Mapping is updated to reflect changes in habitat quality and prioritization of sites based on population viability as well as any changes in mapping approaches. The scientific understanding of the habitat requirements and seasonal movements of many rare species improves with each new study in Massachusetts and through published conservation biology literature. Particularly for Species of Special Concern, the Division excludes sites where the local population has a poor probability of long-term persistence based on the size, condition, and deterioration in local habitat conditions.

The changes in mapping at the specific locations you described are due to the following reasons:

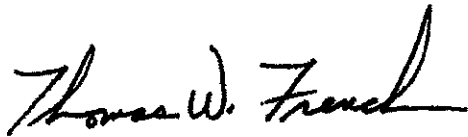
- PH 1093: This location did have observations expire and so the area can no longer be mapped for that species per the MESA Regulations. Additionally, the NHESP chose to exclude certain habitat areas that are less likely to (a) contribute significantly to long-term conservation of the species at the local and/or state level, and/or (b) benefit from standard regulatory practices and outcomes.

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- PH 1077: This location had a rare species local population with poor probability of long-term persistence based on the size, condition, and deterioration in local habitat conditions.
- PH 304: In this location, the NHESP exercised discretion for Special Concern taxa, in determining the mapping extent based on habitat quality and condition, corroborated evidence of occurrence, and population size and condition.
- PH 1158: This location did have observations expire and so the area can no longer be mapped per the MESA Regulations.
- PH 1421: This location did have observations expire and so the area can no longer be mapped for that species per the MESA Regulations. Additionally, the NHESP exercised discretion for Special Concern taxa, in determining the mapping extent based on habitat quality and condition, corroborated evidence of occurrence, and population size and condition.

In summary, as stated in the MESA Regulations (321 CMR 10.12), Priority Habitat delineation is based on the Best Scientific Evidence available and takes into consideration numerous factors, including but not limited to, a species' listing status, the nature of the information as it relates to the conservation of the species, the extent and quality of habitat, the known status of a population, and the scope of existing development.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. French, Ph.D.
Assistant Director