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# TOWN OF LAKEVILLE

## REMOTE MEETING NOTICE/ AGENDA

*Posted in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 30A, §. 18-25*

Name of Board or Committee:	<b>Open Space Committee</b>
Date & Time of Meeting:	<b>Wed. Nov 4, 2020 @ 7:00 PM</b>
Location of Meeting:	<b>REMOTE MEETING</b>
Clerk/Board Member posting notice	<b>Jesse L. Medford - Chair</b>

### AGENDA

- In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, the November 4, 2020 public meeting of the **LAKEVILLE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation. **However, to view this meeting in progress, please go to <http://facebook.com/lakecam> (you do not need a Facebook account to view the meeting). This meeting will be recorded and available to be viewed at a later date at <http://www.lakecam.tv/>.** Is anyone else recording?

#### I. MEETING MINUTES

- Approval of 10/7/2020 meeting minutes

#### II. OLD BUSINESS

- Introduce potential new members
- Discuss Open Space Plan workgroup meetings
- Discussion updates by Open Space Liaisons
  - Mike Schroeder – Assawompsett Pond Complex (APC)
  - Jesse Medford – Park Commission
  - Patrick Marshall – Master Plan Implementation (MPIC)
  - Brian Reynolds – Historical Commission
- Discuss any updates on properties currently of interest to the Open Space Committee
  - 149 Bedford Street
  - Lakeville Hospital properties
  - Lakeville Country Club
  - LeBaron Hills properties
- Discuss chapter land spreadsheet of Lakeville's 61 A/B/C properties

#### III. NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss any correspondence and announcements
- Discuss agenda items for next meeting
- Discuss any other business not mentioned in the agenda that may properly come before the committee

#### IV. NEXT MEETING

- 7:00pm Wed, Dec 2nd – Location TBD, either remote or at Loon Pond Lodge. Sooner if necessary

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn?

**Please be aware that this agenda is subject to change. If other issues requiring immediate attention of the LAKEVILLE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE arise after the posting of this agenda, they may be addressed at this meeting.**

Lakeville would not be Lakeville without its many forests, fields, and bodies of water, but many of them, or accesses to them, are privately owned so we should not take them for granted. Lakeville's Open Space Committee is very concerned about the recent and impending loss to development of significant open space. Significant open spaces are any that provide recreation, be it just walking or sports, the potential for future food production, water resource protection, or natural forests or fields with all their many benefits to humans and wildlife welfare. The larger the parcel the greater the significance, but small parcels can count. We ask anyone who has land with such characteristics, whether under Chapter 61 or not, when you are considering selling or developing your land, please talk with us first. Come to an Open Space Committee meeting or ask the Town Offices to put you in touch with one of our members. The Town may or may not have the resources to buy your land, but if indeed the land has significant value in its open state, it may be able to work with other conservation partners to your benefit as well to the benefit of Lakeville's future.

To whom it may concern,

The Lakeville Open Space Committee has great appreciation for the efforts being put forth by Rhino Capital and VHB towards transparency and community engagement in the process of sharing plans for the Lakeville Hospital Redevelopment Project. Our Committee is especially appreciative of the efforts described in the Redevelopment Project Plan ("Pre-filing Introductory Meeting, September 15, 2020", slide 10) towards populating the redevelopment site with native plants.

We believe that your effort to emphasize native plants on this property demonstrates your values of ecological sustainability and the preservation of an integrated, natural, rural aesthetic in the town of Lakeville. Thanks to our shared interest in sustainable landscaping and town beautification, we write to request a focused commitment to the preservation of native plants through an intentional selection of plants that are locally important and/or threatened by declining populations.

For these reasons, we would like to request that your tree selection emphasize the use of native canopy trees that currently adorn the property, such as birch, beach, oaks, hickory, and maples (but certainly not the invasive Norway maple) rather than native cedar as your presentation has suggested, as native cedar is of relatively limited ecological value. We are requesting approximately 90 native canopy trees planted with appropriate spacing in random clusters to achieve a natural appearance. Planted along the edge of the property, the attractive native canopy trees listed above would provide both a visual screen and wildlife support.

We are grateful for your desire to use native wildflower mixes rather than a grass lawn. We ask that, for maximum ecological benefit, the mixes should consist of plants native to southeastern Massachusetts, and well-suited to the site. We ask that you select a native wildflower and grass mix that is approved by a local authority in ecological stewardship, such as the Native Plant Trust or the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. We would be especially grateful for the inclusion of any endangered plants (such as sundial lupine and bird's foot violet) in your design.

Equally as important as the inclusion of native plants to a design is the commitment to remove invasive plants. Plants like oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, autumn olive, and others can quickly overwhelm native plants without proper maintenance. We ask that Rhino Capital and VHB commit to regular maintenance of the landscape to remove present invasive plants and defend against their reemergence. We request that this maintenance, aside from invasive removal, should include the weekly mowing of established paths winding through the meadow, so the areas may be enjoyed by members of the town.

Because of past experience with landscape plans that developers did not complete as promised, we request that you post a bond in the amount of \$25,000 to be put released once the trees and meadow have been planted and a landscape maintenance plan has been prepared and approved by this committee and the Lakeville Conservation Commission.

The residents of Lakeville, and the members of its Open Space Committee, place particular importance on the landscape of the Lakeville Hospital property, as it is a central location that residents view many times a day, and will continue to do so for generations to come. Through your commitment in helping to balance Lakeville's commercial development with the preservation of its natural beauty, you do a great service to our town.

Sincerely,  
Adam Young, Mike Schroeder, and Liz Nash  
Lakeville Open Space Committee  
October 26, 2020