

**APPENDIX D:**

**ANNOUNCEMENT, MINUTES AND PRESENTATION  
OF PUBLIC FORUM 4/14/2011**

**PUBLIC FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT**

# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has been working hard for the last year updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The main goal of the committee is to set forth realistic goals and objectives for the town to effectively balance its preservation of natural resources and recreational areas with its growth and economic development.

As part of the requirement to solicit public participation and input, the Committee will hold a **public forum on April 14, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Chambers**. The results of a survey will be presented, along with maps, and a discussion will follow. Bring your opinions and ideas on how to use our open space, create new recreational facilities and opportunities, create safe biking and walking for our children, and protect our natural resources.

**April 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Chambers**

## **PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES**

### **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE**

**Minutes  
April 14, 2011  
7:00pm**

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A meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee was held on April 14, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Chambers as part of the public forum. Present were Eileen McHugh, Karen Clement, Bill Rideout, Tom Nevins, Mary Small and Sheila Murphy. Absent were Niles Busler, Michele Busler, and Rick Corsini. Also present was support staff Karen Chapman. The meeting was opened at 7:10 pm.

#### **1. Public Forum**

There were 13 residents in attendance for the public forum, not counting 7 of the members of the committee. The public forum began at 7:10 with a presentation of the slide show by Eileen. As part of this presentation, the public was informed that there will be information on the town website, including the slide show, some of the maps, links to the State planning documents and a copy of the old Open Space and Recreation Plan. Next Karen Chapman presented 5 maps to the group. Tom then tried to show his website to the audience, but technical difficulties prevented him from finishing.

#### **Public Comments and Questions:**

- a. Karin Canfield who heads the non-profit organization Townsend Recreation Activity Council spoke about their fundraising efforts to enhance the recreational opportunities in Townsend.
- b. A member of the Townsend Rod & Gun Club mentioned a parcel of land that is owned by the town that the Club has been trying to purchase for years. Leslie Gabriliska, Conservation Agent, states that the Conservation Commission has been marking the boundaries so that it can be logged and then the town would sell it.
- c. A resident asked what is meant by recreation land and why can't we use the school's fields. Karen Clement states that the tennis courts at the school are unsafe and we are going to be applying for grant money to repair them. In the past few years, the schools have not been very cooperative in sharing their facilities. Karin Canfield says she has gotten several quotes to repair the tennis courts. Karen says most of the recreational facilities in town are for passive recreation such as hiking trails. A discussion ensued regarding the relationship between the town and the schools and that the town does not have the money to help keep the fields at the schools useable. Jennifer Pettit offered information regarding the UMASS Extension and Mary Owen who is willing to give turf management classes to anyone in town who would like the knowledge of how to care for the fields organically.
- d. Jack Stonefield is concerned that there are bylaws to protect the public drinking water supplies but what about private wells. Fifty percent of the town is on private wells and these need to be protected also. Jack asked if the Planning Board requires a hydrogeologic study to be completed when there is a subdivision going in to ensure the subdivision doesn't affect the private wells surrounding it. Another resident asks if there is a way to get there private well water tested and he was told to contact the Nashoba Board of Health.
- e. Another resident commented about Trout Unlimited and their desire to remove the Adams Dam which is behind the public parking area on Riverbank Terrace. Karen C. mentions the Squannacook is a cold water fishery that the State does not want anyone to do anything with. This issue makes it nearly impossible to canoe the river because of all the debris. The debris is what makes the river such an excellent fishery.

- f. It was mentioned that it is difficult to access the Harbor Pond and there are very few places to park. Is the state going to put in a boat ramp? There are many invasive species in the pond and unless it is removed, the pond will cease to exist.
- g. The Rod & Gun Club had a question regarding hunting within 500 feet of the proposed rail trail because their property is within the 500 feet. Bill Rideout states that the only restriction is hunting on the rail trail itself and within 30 feet of the trail.
- h. Phil Holden of Warren Road asked about the Fessenden Hill Road trail and the problem with access on the Brookline, NH end of the trail. The state forest surrounds this area and he was able to drive his vehicle into the forest during hunting season, but now there has been boulders put up to prevent vehicles from entering the forest. Apparently, locals in Brookline had asked DCR to put up a barrier and they did but agreed to take it down during hunting season. This was the practice until Brookline residents complained to police about people in their neighborhood and vandalism. Now the boulders prevent access all the time.
- i. Jennifer Pettit asks if it would be worthwhile for the Recreation Commission to have winter recreation programs such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Are there opportunities for ice skating around town?
- j. Leslie Gabriliska states that the Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife is buying properties in Townsend to protect the habitat of large mammals and other species, with much success.

## **2. Set next meeting date**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2011 at 7:00pm in Room 2.

## **3. Adjourn**

Bill motioned to adjourn at 8:45pm. Mary seconded the motion, with all in favor.

Minutes taken by: Mary Small and Karen Chapman

Minutes transcribed by: Karen Chapman

# TOWN OF TOWNSEND

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION  
PLAN PUBLIC FORUM  
APRIL 14, 2011

## A. Overview: Introduction

1. **Mission**
2. Why an Updated Open Space and Recreation Plan?
3. Who is updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan?
4. What is the process of updating an Open Space and Recreation Plan?
5. Overview: Public Participation
6. Overview: Goals and Objectives
7. Overview: Further information

# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

- I. **WELCOME** – we are going green and have not printed handouts!!
- II. **PURPOSE OF MEETING**
- III. **AGENDA**
  - A. Overview of Committee & their Mission (20 minutes)
  - B. Overview of the town via maps (20 minutes)
  - C. Comments and Question Period

## MISSION

*To update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to set forth realistic goals and objectives for the town to effectively balance its preservation of natural resources and recreational areas of the town with its growth and economic development.*

## A. Overview: Introduction

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4. What is the process of updating an Open Space and Recreation Plan?
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6. Overview: Goals and Objectives
7. Overview: Further information

- Required by MA Department of Conservation and Recreation in order to apply for grants for land protection and recreation development.
- To set goals & objectives for the future of the town's open space and recreation
- Needs to be updated every 5-7 years
- Last plan done in 1999

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### ➤ Nine members appointed by Selectmen:

Michele Busler- Historic District Commission  
Niles Busler - Water Commissioner  
Rick Corsini - Recreation Commission  
Sheila Murphy - Board of Health  
Tom Nevins - Planning Board  
Mary Small - Conservation Commission  
Karen Clement - Citizen-at-large  
Eileen McHugh - Citizen-at-large  
Bill Rideout -Citizen-at-large

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### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEVAL PATRICK, GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
IAN A. BOWLES, SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES  
BOB O'CONNOR, DIRECTOR  
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, SUITE 900  
BOSTON, MA 02114

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B. Planning Process and Public Participation	1
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A. Regional Context	1
B. History of the Community	1
C. Population Characteristics	1
D. Growth and Development Patterns	2
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis	2
A. Geology, Soils and Topography	2
B. Landscape Character	2
C. Water Resources	3
D. Vegetation	3
E. Fisheries and Wildlife	3
F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	3
G. Environmental Challenges	4
Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	5
A. Private Parcels	5
B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels	5
Section 6: Community Vision	5
A. Description of Process	5
B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals	6
Section 7: Analysis of Needs	6
A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs	6
B. Summary of Community's Needs	6
C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use	6
Section 8: Goals and Objectives	6
Section 9: Five-Year Action Plan	7
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TOWN OF TOWNSEND  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
272 Main Street  
Townsend, MA 01469

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Townsend Conservation Commission  
November 1999

## 5. Overview: Public Participation

Necessary and Required

- Step One: Survey  
Released on-line, October 1, 2010  
through November 15, 2010
- Review of On-line survey
- Survey limitations
- Survey results

## 5. Overview: Public Participation

Necessary and Required

- Step One: Survey  
Released on-line, October 1, 2010  
through November 15, 2010
- Review of On-line survey
- Survey limitations
- Survey results



## Survey limitations

- Not a scientific survey
- Doesn't reach everyone in town
- People who are interested in the subject tend to be the ones who respond

## 5. Overview: Public Participation

Necessary and Required

- a. Step One: Survey  
Released on-line, October 1, 2010  
through November 15, 2010
- b. Review of On-line survey
- c. Survey limitations
- d. **Survey results**

## 6. Overview: Goals and Objectives

- a. Review of Goals and Objectives from 1999 Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan
  1. Maintain high quality drinking water both now and in the future for the residents of Townsend.
  2. Ensure the quality, vibrancy, and continued usage of the Squannacook River and its tributaries.
  3. Protect and maintain the quality of all surface waters in Townsend, including wetlands.
  4. Retain the natural character and natural heritage of Townsend.
  5. Provide increased access to state and town owned lands deemed to hold a conservation value.
  6. Develop active recreation facilities.
  7. Provide for maintenance of conservation lands and recreational facilities.
  8. Establish a linked system of open space/recreation available to all town residents.

## 6. Overview: Goals and Objectives

- b. Review of Goals and Objectives /Priorities of current Open Space and Recreation Committee
  1. Changing Economics
  2. Recreation Needs
  3. Informational

## 7. Overview: Further Information

Web Site: [www.townsend.ma.us](http://www.townsend.ma.us)

- PowerPoint
- Commonwealth Documents
- Survey and Comments
- Draft 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Contact:

Karen Chapman, Land Use Coordinator

(978)597-1723, [kchapman@townsend.ma.us](mailto:kchapman@townsend.ma.us)

B. Overview of Town via maps

C. Question and Comments Period