



TOWN OF NORWELL

345 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Implementation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 5:00 pm

in person and via Zoom

Committee Members present: Wendy Bawabe, Fred Bousquet, George Grey, Heather Hanley, Stacy Minihane, Ilana Quirk, Will Saunders, and Marynel Wahl

Committee Members not present: John diFrisco, Justin Ivas, and Steve Ivas

The meeting was **called to order** by Wahl at 5:03 pm.

Ms. Wahl announced that all votes will be roll call votes as some of the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting is being recorded and the audio file will be available upon request. It was noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq extended to March 31, 2025.

The **agenda** was accepted as written. (*Wahl motioned, Hanley seconded, all in favor*)

The **minutes** for the September 27, 2023 meeting were approved as written. (*Quirk motioned, Minihane seconded, all in favor*)

The priority **Action Items** for this meeting are:

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN BALANCE WITH NATURE:

- 3.2 Determine needs, priorities, feasibility, and funding sources for improving active recreation facilities.**
- 3.3 Consider existing schools, town buildings or facilities for re-use...**
- 3.7 Improve variety of active recreation opportunities for all age groups and abilities including adults and Active Aging Adult population (50+, 70+).**
- 3.9 Encourage collaboration between COA, Rec, and others... work toward "Age-Friendly Community"...**
- 3.14 Engage in Strategic Planning for acquiring, improving, and maintaining properties for Recreation.** (George Grey, Lead)

Grey updated the Committee on the plans for a **Multi-generational Community Center** (3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.9, 3.14). By way of history, he explained that at the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting funding for a feasibility and site study was approved. In the Summer of 2021 an RFQ for bids was sent out, and Recreation and the Council on Aging (COA) reviewed the 9 proposals received. This past Monday, the Evaluation Committee met to choose 1 of the 9 bidders. The feasibility assessment will include potential costs, pros and cons, and a concept design for each of the 2 sites of interest: the current Town Hall site on Main Street and the (soon to be) former Tree & Grounds Barn off of South Street.

Grey also noted that he and Saunders recently submitted an application to the CPC for trail improvement at the **Charles White Recreation Area** off of Green Street. **(3.2, 3.14)**.

Grey wants to make more people aware of the amount of Conservation and Recreation land we have available for active use by residents (and others). We should be proud! Saunders noted we have over 20 miles of trails and about 25 miles of pathways. Having pathways and sidewalks enables other projects to happen because of our connectivity.

Grey reviewed the issues regarding moving forward with the **Clipper Community Complex "Phase II"** plans, even though some CPC money has already been approved. Phase II included a complete re-build of

the existing tennis courts and an overhaul of the front fields (adjacent to the courts). The School Department has re-prioritized and is now discussing a possible new High School and a feasibility study to determine if the current school should be re-done or if a new school will be rebuilt. If either of these scenarios happens, the fields and court area could be used as a construction staging area or a site for a new building. Therefore, Grey and Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson have lost their mojo and need to step back and allow the School Committee to first assess their needs. **(3.2, 3.3, 3.14)**

3.2 Develop a land-use plan for the Carleton/Cushing property (George Grey, Lead)

Grey noted that the Conservation Commission is working on connecting the Carleton/Cushing property to the following existing conservation/recreation areas: Trout Brook, Fogg Forest, and Miller Woods.

Discussion for the next meeting on Wednesday, December 6th will be:

- 1) Overall review of where we are on the OSRP.
- 2) PROTECT NORWELL'S SCENIC QUALITY AND HISTORIC RESOURCES:

4.1 Continue to update Norwell's Survey of Historic Resources

4.2 Identify or investigate identified priority areas for protections that preserve the scenic and rural qualities of Norwell. (Wendy Bawabe, Lead)

In preparation for the December meeting, Bawabe asked everyone to consider historic properties in town that they would like to see "saved" (façade preservation) and bring the list to the next meeting for discussion. Bawabe will also ask the Historical Commission to weigh in on this also.

Wahl will send Bawabe the latest Excel version of the OSRP so she can create a shared document online.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 5:57 pm. (*Quirk motioned, Bousquet seconded, all in favor*)

The next meeting would be on **Wednesday, December 6th at 5:00 pm** via Zoom and in person at the Conservation Offices at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Bawabe, OSRP Implementation Committee

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DONE
Send final minutes from 9/27/23 to Town Clerk	Bawabe	✓
Consider historic properties in town for Façade Preservation	EVERYONE	
Consult with the Historical Commission regarding priority properties	Bawabe	
Prep for next meeting's Action Items discussion	Bawabe	
Post the next meeting	Wahl	
Send Excel doc of latest OSRP to Bawabe	Wahl	
Create an online document of OSRP with added column of "Completed"	Bawabe	
NOTED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, STILL TO BE WORKED ON...		
Discuss how the OSRP Committee can help the Water Department with messaging	Ivas	
Work on the Invasives Species Info Series flyers	Minihane & Bawabe	
Write a proposal to Phil Benjamin (or his successor)	Saunders	
Send bench specs to Bawabe for Branding Guidelines	Saunders	
Create an online document listing small Town projects that could be eligible for grants. Share this doc with appropriate parties and Committees.	Wahl	
Continue to work on Branding Guidelines	Bawabe	
Review the competing lists of land categories and try to get a better number of preserved Town land	Grey & Saunders	