

Town of Bridgton
Open Space Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date 3/7/2024, 4 pm

Members present: Peter Lowell, Glen Jukkola (attended remotely), Matt Markot, June Sleeper, Brian Mayhew

Others present: Tori Hill, Haley Richardson, Gary Colello

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Scorecard development and review of other plans (links provided by Glen)
 - a. Broad discussion by group and Peter voiced that we may consider other evaluation tools that are available. Tori said that Glen put together a great tool and Gary said that Recreation is OK with it too!
4. Review of Town owned property and GIS information provided.
 - a. June related that she had done a high-level check of the 107 Acre Town owned property off of Fosterville Road which has 400 LF on Foster Pond. Question of whether there would be issues accessing it via Town Farm Road. Group was not sure if the Town of Bridgton owns 'Town Farm Rd.' or if it is a private way. Tori will check into this matter. LEIT owns adjacent property which has frontage on Fosterville Road that could potentially provide access to the Town owned property.
 - b. Peter discussed 2 parcels on Cedar Lane which have frontage on Moose Pond for potential kayak launch. Brian thought that the back lot might have potential for camp sites.
 - c. There is a Town owned island in Beaver Pond. Peter is not sure what has transpired with that since there is no public access point to the pond that he is aware of.
 - d. Broad discussion of Stevens Brook Trail to Salmon Point Boat Launch area. Numerous Town owned properties in area.
 - e. Add to each agenda: Other Open Space, i.e. use 'Moose Pond Trust Fund'
 - f. Gary brought up how Highland Lake launch area has been quite crowded and how boaters are crossing over the swim lines. Similar situation at Wood Pond. Need for Harbor Master, etc.
 - g. Create 'hand carry' at Sabatis Island. Matt will put together memo for Select Board that references the Open Space Plan and Brian will get photos to include.
 - g. Peter has some suggested corrections for the Open Space Plan that need to be addressed.

h. Hotspots Map discussed and correlation with the occurrence of wildlife. Tori is sending maps in the appendix so that we can review 'corridors'. Suggestion that we could get GIS developer to augment/build more layered composite. Add Woodward & Curran's data and pull data from 'Beginning With Habitat'.

5. Questions for survey cards that will be made available at elections

a. Potential to prepare additional survey questions that can help gauge public interest for additional lake front access in time for the upcoming election in June.

b. Matt began discussion of what intent of additional survey questions is. Especially since there are many datapoints that were already addressed during the input period for the Comprehensive Plan. Potential to combine with Comprehensive Plan 'Question of the Month'. Should be very specific question to glean new information. How many 'Town Dollars' need to be 'raised' for waterfront property?

6. Note corrections/additions to the existing Open Space Plan

a. Peter has some suggested corrections for the Open Space Plan that need to be addressed.

7. Identify implementation priorities

8. Approval of minutes – Peter: motion to approve, Brian: seconded

a. January 4 – June noted that she had said that she was willing to be Recorder for one quarter

b. February 1

9. Adjourn

a. Motion for adjournment at 5:10 PM by Peter Lowell, seconded by Brian Mayhew