



# TOWN OF OLD LYME

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## OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

### Minutes – Regular Meeting

April, 12, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair Gregory Futoma called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
2. Attendance:  
Present Board Members: Chair Gregory Futoma, Vice Chair Michael Aurelia, Fred Behringer, Amanda Blair, Andrea Fenton, Evan Griswold and Secretary Anne Redfield.  
Members Absent: Claudio Denoya
3. Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2023  
Fred Behringer made a MOTION to approve the March 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes and Anne Redfield SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 6 ayes, 1 abstention : Evan Griswold. The MOTION PASSED.
4. Public Comment: None
5. 36-1 Buttonball Road Property Update – Fred Behringer  
Fred reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to accept the recommendation from the 36-1 Buttonball Road Committee for the property to be co-managed by Open Space and Harbor Management and unanimously agreed to retire the Buttonball Road committee. Harbor Management will move forward with exploring the proposed dock construction and subcommittees will be formed as needed to co-manage the property. Mike Aurelia will continue to attend HM meetings and sees Open Space assisting with signage and trail delineation. Amanda Blair as a private citizen suggests the public have access to the signed recommendation, and revised site plans. She likes the idea of a folder in Town Hall. She also would like to see the existing trail/wood road used until the dock plans are finalized. Greg Futoma would like to put the documents on the web site and said there is money in the budget for signage to protect the marsh and post hours. Mike & Fred will set up a work group to develop a to do list.
6. Ferry Landing Wildlife Refuge Update – Anne Redfield  
The phragmite mowing took place and Anne has before and after photos. Pending final approval of budget allocations the process for selecting a contractor to conduct the next steps in the phragmites management project can move forward. Anne announced that there may be a Mitchell College student interested in the internship and thanked Fred for his introduction to a professor there.  
There was a discussion about where to place a kiosk that displays posters with habitat restoration project updates and placement of “Wild Life Refuge -limited access” signs. Native plants were purchased and will need to be picked up and planted by May 15, 2023. She needs at least 8 volunteers for a planting day or days.
7. Open Space Updates
  - a) Ames Open Space Trail Use  
Andrea Fenton, Mike Aurelia & LOLHS student Justin Green walked the property and found many shadow trails, jumps off rocks and raked areas. Bikers are at risk. Andrea & Mike will form a subcommittee to walk the property again and come up with action items. It was agreed that public outreach regarding safety and hours of permitted trail use are needed.
  - b) Champlain North  
Andrea is working on procuring the ant hill & Barbizon signs. Amanda is waiting for a quote from a fence company.



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c) 33 Caulkins Road

Greg said this property was given to the town around the same time as Buttonball and has allowed water access. Today boats and kayaks are being stored on the property. He has been in discussion with First Selectmen Griswold who would like to encourage the neighbors to respect the property. OP commission will continue to work with Tim Griswold assisting with efforts to maintain a natural environment.

d) Noyes Tract

Greg passed out a GIS map that showed 5 tracks on the Ames property and would like to designate 1 parcel as the historic Noyes property. Fred made a MOTION to rename a parcel the Noyes Property and Anne SECONDED. DISCUSSION: Mr. Noyes was present and was asked what he would like to call the property, he needs to consult with his sister. Fred amended the MOTION to include the name of the property to be decided by the Noyes Family. Anne SECONDED Vote: 7 Ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

e. GIS Updates Project Updates

Amanda continues to inventory Open Space properties and would like to improve GIS capabilities, erect signage and calibrate acreage.

8. Affordable Housing/ McCulloch Building Envelopes

Amanda said attorneys are moving forward.

9. Property Stewardship – Michael Aurelia, Peter Norris

Peter is injured and out for the summer. The commission discussed options for finding an additional land steward to step in when there are absences.

9. Community Outreach: Andrea Fenton

a) CLCC Conference Recap – the conference was very informative and Andrea has some “take aways” that she hopes to share with the commission members.

b) Hiker Happy Hours

Amanda has been in touch with the Old Lyme Inn and they are interested in hosting our happy hours again this year. Dates are Wednesday or Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, June, Sept. & Oct. More to come as details are worked out.

c) Midsummer Festival

Greg has a table reserved.

d) Recognition of LOLHS Seniors

There is a party at 7 a.m. next Wednesday at the High School to thank seniors who have participated in the environmental club and for several years helped out with Open Space projects.

10. New Business - None

11. Executive Session - None

12. Adjourn

Anne made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:12 and Evan SECONDED. DISCUSSION: None. Vote 7 ayes. The MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk