



TOWN OF LEICESTER

Office of Development & Inspectional Services

Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

www.leicesterma.org

508-892-7003 (Building/Health)/508-892-7007 (Planning, Conservation, ZBA)

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Board of Health
Building/Code Enforcement
Conservation Commission
Planning Board
Moose Hill Water Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 6:00PM

ONLINE ONLY

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/223743989>

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United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

Access Code: 223-743-989

6:00PM – Open Meeting

1. Survey Update
2. Public Forum Planning
3. Adoption of Minutes: 4/27/2021
4. Miscellaneous

7:00PM - Adjourn

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
MEETING MINUTES 4/27/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Reinke, Sharon Nist, Sue Sears, Dawn Marttila, Vaughn Hathaway (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dianna Provencher (Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Brooke Hammond, Department Assistant

6:00PM – Open Meeting

1. Survey Update
2. Goal Discussion
3. Public Forum
4. Adoption of Minutes: 4/6/2021
5. Miscellaneous

7:00PM – Adjourn

Mr. Reinke calls the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Survey Update

Ms. Nist lists multiple locations around town where she dropped off paper copies of the survey. Ms. Adams says there were not many survey responses from residents under 18 and residents over 65. The Committee discusses potential ways to get the surveys to these age demographics such as a school newsletter or the town-wide email list. Ms. Adams notes that there are currently 107 responses; her goal is usually to receive a survey from 3% of the population, which in Leicester would be 340 people. Ms. Adams goes over some of the early survey results and asks the Committee to keep these responses in mind when discussing the goals of the Open Space Plan.

2. Goal Discussion

- **Goal #1: Protect open space and natural resources, particularly water resources.**

The Committee agrees to keep this goal from the 2015 OSR Plan.

Advancements in this goal since 2015: Ms. Adams asks what has been done to advance this goal since 2015. Ms. Marttila says Leicester Girls Softball now leases and maintains Russell Field. At Burncoat Park the wetlands have been delineated and the Burncoat Park Sports Planning Committee is working on a Master Plan for the park (which abuts Burncoat Pond). Ms. Nist says Open Space Residential Developments have been approved by the Planning Board in recent years that preserve open space in new housing developments. Mr. Reinke notes that the Lake Association at Lake Sargent oversees the maintenance of that lake.

- **Goal #2: Provide and maintain recreational opportunities to people of all ages and abilities.**

The Committee agrees to keep this goal from the 2015 OSR Plan and include the phrase “to people of all ages and abilities” at the end of the goal (underlined above).

Advancements in this goal since 2015: Ms. Sears says the Parks and Recreation Committee has not been as active in the last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Programs such as basketball, tennis, handball, etc. will resume summer 2021. Parks and Rec. received a grant to install a new playground at Towtaid Park. Ms. Marttila notes that in recent years the Ron Tarentino Memorial Court was installed which includes basketball courts and a future playground. Mr. Reinke was involved in adapting the playground at the Elementary School to be ADA compliant.

- **Goal #3: Build a strong constituency of open space and recreation advocated through education and collaborative partnerships.**

Goal #4 from 2007 is going to replace Goal #3 to describe the Committee/Leicester's Open Space & Recreation Plan goals more accurately.

- **Goal #4: Establish a continuous open space planning process.**

[Note: Goal #4 from 2015 is going to be omitted because it is better suited as an action item to be addressed later in the OSR Plan process. This was decided unanimously by the Committee.]

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to accept the goals as stated above.

Second: Ms. Marttila

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (4-0-0)

3. Public Forum

A public forum will be held in July 2021 (date TBD) to involve residents in the process of developing the Open Space Plan. CMRPC will create a presentation summarizing survey results and goals for public viewing. This will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

4. Adoption of Minutes – 4/6/2021

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to accept the April 6, 2021 minutes.

Second: Ms. Sears

Discussion: None.

Roll-Call Vote: (4-0-0)

5. Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Nist

Second: Ms. Sears

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (4-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Hammond, Department Assistant

Documents included in the meeting packet:

- Meeting Agenda
- Email from Ms. Adams dated 4/22/2021
- Preliminary Survey Results
- 2007 and 2015 OSRP goals
- April 6, 2021 meeting minutes