

Next Meeting: February 4, 2025, 7 PM, Heritage Room.

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/23/25

Time: 7 pm

Location: Holbrook Town Hall, Heritage Room

Attendees: Eric Helfer (via Zoom), Alison Bowden (via Zoom), Cristina Lucci-McShain, Patricia Greely, Denise Louis, Brendan Potash, William Conrad, Robert Montgomery-Thomas, Carleen Sabusap,

Quorum: 9 members present

Also present: Laura Harrigan, Hannah Johnson (Conway Students)

1. Approval of Minutes and Administrative Updates:

- Motion by Cristina to approve minutes.
- Motion to update from town clerk to administrator, approved unanimously.

2. Facilities Reservation and Setup for March 4 Event:

- Form needs to be filled out for March 4 event.
- Anne Mahoney to request fee waiver for janitor to reserve school.
- Setup details: 5-8 PM in the cafeteria
 - 12 round tables with attached chairs/benches or 12-20 chairs.
 - PA system with a screen.
- Question from Laura about projector availability; Patricia to confirm.
- Discussion on acquiring 4 whiteboards; Patricia to include in the morning form submission.

3. Project Updates and Survey End Date:

- Survey instructors suggest setting an end date; ongoing data collection until January 31.
- Proposal to include notice in water or tax bills; cost consideration noted.

4. Discussion on Project Milestones and Documentation:

- Review of project milestones and ongoing student presentations.

- Use of last year's guide and community engagement workshops discussed.
- 5. Appendix G Inclusion in Vision Plan:**
- Concern raised about maps missing from reviewed documents.
 - Explanation provided regarding Appendix G as part of JFK school masterplan.
 - Agreement to investigate if Appendix G was in the reviewed plan.
- 6. Zoning Map Update and Land Conservation:**
- Discussion on updating zoning map with new MBTA zone.
 - Plans for acquiring and protecting conservation lands discussed.
- 7. Potential Partnerships and Land Use Discussions:**
- Consideration of partnerships with local entities.
 - Exploration of open space lands and potential for conservation.

The committee discussed various parcels of land that could be considered as part of the Open Space Plan, including conservation areas, recreational fields, and undeveloped properties with potential for public use.

Key Areas Discussed:

- **Cochato Nursery:** Currently not open, with ongoing land sales in the area.
- **Tumbling Brook:** Added to the list with access points from Center Street and near Cochato Native Plant Nursery.
- **Holbrook Sportsmen's Club Area:** Some conservation land and wetlands exist, with trails leading from nearby developments. Access is limited, and potential partnerships were suggested. Concerns were raised about access restrictions due to shooting activities.
- **Town Forest & Adjacent Land:** Efforts to protect additional parcels have been challenged by past sales to developers. There is an interest in incorporating remaining land into conservation.
- **Belair Drive & Dean Street Area:** A large collection of parcels owned by various individuals. The town is working to consolidate ownership for potential conservation efforts.
- **Brookville Fields:** Discussed as an underutilized recreational space needing improvements, including better maintenance and access to water.

- **Landfill & High-Tension Corridors:** Considered for potential recreational use or wildlife corridors. The feasibility of public access and trail development was raised.

Key Concerns and Next Steps:

- **Land Protection & Acquisition:** Need to identify priority parcels for conservation and ensure they are not lost to development.
- **Strategic Planning for Growth:** Discussion on whether the town should prioritize residential or commercial development.
- **Coordination with Homeowners & Developers:** Proactively engaging with landowners before sales occur.
- **Funding & Grants:** Developing a clear Open Space Plan to apply for grants supporting land acquisition and preservation.

8. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Cristina, seconded by Will. All in favor.