

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC) Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2024, a public hybrid meeting in the Evelyn Haines Room

* Action items and votes¹ below in bold face

At 6:30 PM, Bartlett opened the meeting. Roll call:

Present (In person): John Bartlett, Jack Bowen, Justin Damon, Marlies Henderson, Mike Parker (excused at 7:10)², Darlene Torre (excused at 7 PM), Grace Tucci

Excused: Mike Rosa

Zoom: Consultant Eli Bloch (D&F)

Staff (In person): Kat Malgieri (excused at 7 PM)

Public: Andrew Jennings

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TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

- 1) Open mic: Damon (439B Middlesex Tpke) read a statement: A red flag warning for brush fires was issued last October; the state wildfire risk increased by 1200%. He suggests Billerica creates a Forest Ranger position in conjunction with Police and Fire Department to monitor trails, address vandalism, raise awareness and provide public education. Concord, MA and Lincoln, MA have these positions.
- 2) Malgieri states that when the town appoints a Tree Warden (Mike Haines retired), this person will be the Parks Department appointed *voting* member on the OSRPC.
- 3) Consultant Eli Bloch screen-shares the latest edits for the OSRP³ per the State DCS⁴ required six points of clarification. Parker moved (Henderson seconds) to accept the changes as presented and submit the new draft with two forthcoming letters of support (SRWA and OARS). All **voted** unanimously in favor. Parker moved (Damon seconded) to accept the forthcoming Letters of Support, should they come in. All **voted** unanimously in favor.
- 4) Malgieri provided a draft 2025 Meeting Schedule. Members discussed accepting it with extra meeting dates on the fifth Tuesday of the months preceding May and October (Town Meeting months) with the possibility to

¹ In favor – opposed - abstain

² Several members and Kat left to attend a FinCom meeting. A quorum continued the OSRPC meeting.

³ The new plan has been conditionally approved through October 2031. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through October 2031, and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

⁴ Division of Conservation Services

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cancel if those meeting dates aren't needed. Henderson moved (Damon seconded) to accept the 2025 Meeting Schedule with extra meeting dates on the fifth Tuesday of the months preceding May and October. All **voted** unanimously in favor.

- 5) Members agreed to table the vote on November 5 minutes till the next meeting.
- 6) Malgieri provides an update on Arbor Day / Tree City ceremonial tree planting by the Select Board / Clean Up Green Up / seedling tree giveaways through Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association (MTWFA)⁵ . This will be a recurring agenda item.
- 7) Malgieri met with the students of the UEP Field Project. She will provide info in January.
- 8) Henderson explains the Billerica access and parking quest into Carlisle Greenough Land.
- 9) Next meeting date: 1/7 at 6:30 PM in the Evelyn Haines Room.
Damon moves to adjourn, motion seconded by Bowen. All remaining members vote in favor: (5-0-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marlies Henderson

⁵ <https://www.masstreewardens.org/mtwfa-seedlings/>