

Town of Holden

Open Space Committee

In accordance with the powers vested in the Town Manager by Section 14 (b) of Chapter 406 of the Acts of 1951, The Town Manager Act, an Open Space Committee is hereby created.

PURPOSE:

The Town of Holden continues to undergo significant residential growth and development pressures. As a consequence, the Town is faced with loss of available open space land, a heightened need to protect the Town's major drinking water and natural resources, and a growing demand for adequate recreational facilities.

A major focus of the recently completed Master Plan identified the need for a standing Open Space Committee to protect Holden's valuable open space and recreational facilities.

The purpose of this Committee will be to review and update the Town's 5-Year Recreation and Open Space Plan. The resulting Plan will update and supercede the 1999 Plan (and its subsequent updates) and will provide a guidepost for future Town actions. Additionally, the Committee will focus on the protection of open space, work with private land trusts and will implement the Open Space Plan.

FUNCTIONS:

In its review of the Plan, the Committee shall:

- 1) identify current and planned development trends in the community and determine, to the extent possible, the impact of this development on our open space and recreation needs;
- 2) inventory existing open/recreation space land in the community and determine their adequacy for current and future needs;
- 3) organize and conduct public hearings to involve and measure community input concerning the preservation and development of open and recreation properties;
- 4) update the 5-Year Plan including strategies for acquisition and maintenance.
- 5) work with the Recreation Director in conjunction with the Recreation Committee in the development of capital needs for inclusion in the Capital Planning Process.
- 6) review and work toward implementing the goals and objectives set out in the Holden Master Plan 2008 and the Open Space and Recreation Plan as amended from time to time.

The Committee should devote particular attention to its review and recommendations in the following areas:

- 1) prioritization of proposed acquisitions;

- 2) impact of open space acquisition on protection of the Town's water and other natural resources;
- 3) acquisition strategies that would reduce tax levy impact (such as joint ventures with private organizations);
- 4) specific recommendations on re-zoning or other regulatory changes that would promote open space and recreational facilities.

ORGANIZATION:

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members representing the following:

- Board of Selectmen
- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Recreation Committee
- White Oak Land Conservation Society
- 2 At-Large Members

The Recreation Director and Senior Planner will serve as ex-officio members without a vote.

The Committee shall organize and select a Chair and such other officers as it sees fit. The Committee may adopt such rules as it deems necessary and consistent with the orderly conduct of its business.

Members may be removed with notice due to undue absenteeism or removal from the Town of Holden.

DUTIES:

The Committee shall maintain proper records of their meetings and shall notify the Town Clerk in accordance with the applicable Annotated Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at least 48 hours prior to the scheduling and commencement of any meetings. Meetings shall be open to the public and allow for appropriate public input.

REPORT:

The Committee shall hold adequate public hearings on the Open Space Plan and shall report its finding to the Town Manager no later than September 30, 2010. Thereafter the Committee shall update the Plan and report to the Town Manager every three years. The Committee shall meet no less than annually with the Master Plan Implementation Committee to report its progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the Holden Master Plan 2008 for Open Space and Recreational needs.

Signed Nancy T. Galkowski
Nancy T. Galkowski
Town Manager

Date May 6, 2010