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TOWN CLERK TOWN OF NORTH READING
NORTH READING, MA *Massachusetts*

Conservation Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. Allen called the Wednesday, February 12, 2020 meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 6:00 PM in Room 14 of the North Reading Town Hall, 235 North Street, North Reading, MA.

Members	Lori Mitchener, Chair
Present:	Randy Mason, Member
	Melissa Campbell, Member
	Tomas Sanchez, Member
Absent:	
Staff	Leah Basbanes
Present:	Christine Doolin, Admin Asst

Discussion/ Correspondence File/Minutes

Minutes

Mr. Allen moved seconded, by Ms. Mitchener, and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission approve the minutes from January 8, 2020 meeting.

Certificate of Compliance

10 Dogwood Lane/50 Adams St (245-1088) in-ground pool
Continued

157 Main St Village at Northridge Condominium (245-56)
Luke Roy informed the board that they had started cleaning the basin and he believes that they got the majority of it done but then the cold weather set in and he wasn't sure if they had finished yet. He will follow up and revise As-built as necessary.

92 Concord St (245-1018) Utility Plan

Agent Leah Basbanes stated that overall the site is in compliance and the as-built plan is ok except that it shows several large storage trailers in the stone area at the end of the parking lot. These were not part of the approved work. These should be considered impervious as they are not on blocks. The plan from 2005 that was approved does not show the trailers on the plan.

The applicant from Brickway Realty stated the plan for the trailers are to store shovels and construction equipment and he would like to keep them. The trailers are 8'x20' and only increase the impervious by 1% which brings total impervious to 16% under the allowed 22%. The Commission is ok with the applicant keeping the 6 trailers.

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Sanchez and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance as the work has been completed in substantial compliance.

40-50 Fordam Rd (245-1547) rehabilitation of parking lot and installation of stormwater swales.

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Ms. Campbell and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance as the work has been completed in substantial compliance.

20 Maple Rd (245-1503) single family dwelling

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Ms. Campbell and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance as the work has been completed in substantial compliance.

330 Park St (245-1575) construction of new detached garage

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Ms. Campbell and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance as the work has been completed in substantial compliance.

Public Hearings

20 Main St CVS Order of Conditions Extension Permit (245-1531)

Brian Dundon, civil engineer with RJ O' Connell and Associates was present on behalf of the applicant and owner of East Gate Plaza. Mr. Dundon requested an Extension to the Order of Conditions as the site has been substantially completed though there are some minor grading and seeding activities that need to occur around the perimeter edges of the parking field associated with CVS. The Order of Conditions is set to expire on April 12, 2020 and he would like to extend it so they can continue to clean up the work and get it stabilized by the end of May beginning of June. They will come before the board again and request a Certificate of Compliance.

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Sanchez and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission issue the Order of Conditions Extension Permit for one year. The Extension Permit will expire on April 12, 2021.

2 Chester Rd is an error, the project is actually *1 Chester Rd*. Abutter mailings where thus not complete. **Continued to the March 11th conservation meeting.**

246 Central St, 303 & 327 Main St 245-(245-xxxx) Public Water Supply Chlorine feed stations. For description of the proposed project, see attached narrative that was submitted as part of the Notice of Intent submitted and presented by Mark Clark, Collin Stewart and Chuck Caron.

Conservation Chair Lori Mitchener had a few questions. Lori asked if there currently an underground storage vault that holds chlorine. Mark Clark responded that there is an 8' wide and 12' long concrete vault. They proposed to store 15 gallon drums. It will be a liquid chlorine it's basically a bleach and normally a store bleach is about 5% and this will be about 12.5% so it's just a little more concentrated. No chlorine gas will be stored.

Mr. Stewart stated the 303 Main St project is temporary and will only be used until the 327 Main Street facility can be constructed. Expected to be only 6 to 7 months. Mr. Clark stated that they are in discussions with the DEP on just how to get through this process. One alternative is an emergency declaration it allows them for a six month period to grant the town certain waivers, one of the waivers they need is that they are only permitted right now to take a million and a half gallons a day from Andover and from May 1st to November 1st due to the towns water demands with sprinkling and outside water use generally exceed 1 and half million gallons a day so it a 6 months period they are looking for.

The two permeant sites they are identical facilities except for the Central Street site the finished floor elevation will be 2ft above the flood plain. These facilities will be using chlorine injectors they are tablet form so they go into a hopper and water saturates the tablets and it goes into a solution tank and then it gets injected so it's not going to be a liquid chlorine in the long run. Also on Central Street as part of the construction the existing pump station will be demolished and the well field will be taken off line as soon as the Central Street facility constructed.

Wendy Rind an abutter, expressed concern about the size of the new building Central St site and potential runoff. Mr. Stewart stated they are not that much difference in the change in square footage and there would be basically no runoff onto the street. The one on Main Street will go to an infiltration basin and on Central Street it will go to infiltration trench which is a subsurface trench.

Leah asked about their timeline and Mr. Clark stated they are looking to have that ready to go about April 15th. An emergency permit is not likely needed, but if necessary it may be considered. **Continued to the March 11th meeting.**

29 Little Meadow Way-(245-xxxx) Thorsen Akerley of William and Sparages, LLC presented a Notice of Intent for installation of new drainage structures. Due to significant ponding issues in the rear of the property during wet periods of the year, the two existing yard drains were installed to aid in draining the applicant's backyard. These yard drains are small 2'x2' plastic chambers, which are interconnected and discharged via a 4" PVC pipe along the riprap slope by the driveway. It has become apparent that drainage improvements are needed as the flooding issues have not improved. The proposal is to install 235' of 10" HDPE pipe, which will connect the two proposed catch basins in the rear of the property to a new drain manhole and level spreader on the northern portion of the subject parcel.

The existing 12' No-Disturb, will be restored with New England Conservation and Wildlife seed mix and shrubs, i.e. Highbush Blueberry and Sweet Pepperbush shrubs, under the supervision of a Professional Wetland Scientist.

Additionally a 30'x 48' concrete play court is also proposed in place of the existing children's play area, along with the expansion of the existing yard. The current edge of disturbed is proposed to be extended to along the 12' NDZ and a short landscape retaining wall is also proposed on the western side of the proposed play court. A short retaining wall is proposed and will help reduce additional disturbance and tree cutting along that portion of the project as grading won't be necessary. Ms. Basbanes recommended a more permeant barrier along the 12' no-disturb line such as post and rail fence.

Ms. Basbanes asked the reason that the pipe was extended so far into the wooded area. Mr. Thorsen stated they were trying to stay as far outside the buffer but could look into pulling the pipe back a little bit.

29 Little Meadow Way is continued to the March 11 Conservation meeting.

195A- Haverhill St (245-1632) Luke Roy of LGR Engineering presented a Notice of Intent for demolition of and existing dwelling and construction of a new single family dwelling, septic system and associated site work. The delineated BVW encompasses a large portion of the northerly half of the 7.7 ac. Property and also along the southerly perimeter. There is an intermittent stream channel flowing north to south which divides the property. Existing driveway access from Haverhill Street crosses the stream to upland areas on the east side of the property. There is an existing dwelling barn, misc. accessory shed structures and a large open grass pasture area along the property boundary.

In 2017 a Notice of Intent was filed for replacement of the existing driveway culvert over the intermitted stream. An Order of Conditions (245-1566) was approved however the culvert replacement has not yet been constructed. Mr. Roy stated that the Order of Conditions expires around October 2020 and we may have to request an extension on that.

The existing dwelling, barn and sheds are proposed to be removed. The existing septic system will be abandoned. The interior chain link fencing will be removed. Post may either remain or be saw cut. The new dwelling is proposed in the area between the existing dwelling and barn, located 49ft from the wetlands at closest point. There is also an in-ground pool, patio and pool

house proposed at the rear of the new dwelling. The proposed septic system is located entirely outside of the 100ft. The existing bit driveway from Haverhill Street to the existing dwelling is proposed to be reconstructed/resurfaced at the same location and to the same grade as the existing driveway. The driveway is proposed to extend up to the garage of the new home.

A stone masonry wall is proposed to encompass the dwelling and surrounding yard area, and will serve as 12ft no-disturb to wetlands along the northerly side.

Mr. Galvin an abutter from 197 Haverhill Street stated that he has several concerns primarily about the potential of water in his basement from the new house, fill and the culvert work.

Discussion ensued about the drainage from the new house not changing from current condition and may improve because there will be less impervious area in the flood plain. The water will still flow in the same direction to the wetland.

Mr. Roy stated that it could be a concern that the applicant is going to have to look at what kind of equipment they are bring over and if the bridge is structurally capable of handling that or do they have to do that at the early stages of the project. At least a fire truck should be able to go over it.

Mr. Galvin stated that the culvert on Elm Street should be fixed before they touch 195A Haverhill property.

A site inspection will be set up by Ms. Basbanes for the commission and Mr. Roy

195A Haverhill Street is continued to the March 11 Conservation meeting.

Discussions

North Reading Open Space and Recreation Plan-presentation to the Conservation Commission and Recreation Area Planning and Maintenance (see attached)

Appointment of Vice Chair

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Ms. Campbell and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission vote to appoint Mr. Sanchez as Vice Chair

Adjourn

Ms. Mitchener moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, and voted 5-0;
that the Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM

Approved


Cori Mitchener

Dated

3.31.20

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Project Introduction and Overview

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is being filed by the North Reading Department of Public Works (DPW) in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MAWPA) (M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40) and its implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the North Reading Wetland Regulations. This NOI is being filed for the construction of two permanent public water supply chlorine feed stations, and one temporary public water supply chlorine feed station.

The Town of North Reading recently discovered PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in its drinking water sources. As a result, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will be issuing an emergency declaration to allow North Reading to abandon their existing sources and obtain its drinking water from the neighboring community of Andover beginning in April 2020. In order to receive water from Andover, North Reading must chlorinate the water. Two permanent chlorine feed stations are currently being designed and are expected to be constructed by the end of 2020 at each of the two existing interconnections with Andover (main Street and Central Street). In the interim, North Reading must install a temporary chlorine feed station at the Main Street interconnection as no existing chemical feed systems exist at this location. The existing Central Street location has chemical feed capabilities that can be used in the interim.

The North Reading and Andover water supply systems are currently interconnected at Main Street and Central Street. The interconnections have been used, in the past, to provide drinking water to North Reading when North Reading's supplies cannot keep up with demand. The purpose of the new chlorine feed stations is to boost the chlorine residual, in the water entering the North Reading system from Andover, so that water at the ends of the system maintains an adequate chlorine residual.

The proposed project involves the construction of a new chlorine feed station at 303 Main Street, the construction of a new chlorine feed station and the demolition of the existing pump house at 246 Central Street, and the installation of a temporary chlorine feed station at the existing interconnection and meter with Andover at 327 Main Street. The temporary feed station will only be in place until the permanent feed stations are operational which is expected to be spring of 2021.

The 303 Main Street chlorine feed station is proposed to be located behind the existing building at the edge of a parking lot. This station will consist of a chlorine feed building with a footprint of approximately 25 feet x 30 feet, 470 feet of new water main to connect the proposed station to the existing water system in Main Street, 125 feet of drain discharge line, 140 feet of relocated storm drain and appurtenances. The entirety of the chlorine feed building, approximately 137 feet of water main, 17 feet of drain discharge line and all the relocated storm drain are proposed within the 100-foot Buffer Zone from a Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). All the work proposed is at least 55 feet from the BVW and entirely within previously disturbed areas. All but a 7.5 feet x 30 feet section of the building and approximately 13 feet of water main is within a

currently impervious area. There is an existing stormwater basin between all the work and the BVW.

The Central Street chlorine feed station is proposed to be located at the site of North Reading's existing pump station (which also houses chemical feed systems) and well field. The proposed chemical feed station is proposed to be entirely within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF). The existing 510 square feet (sf) pump station is proposed to be demolished, all of which is also within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. The construction of the proposed chemical feed station will require the clearing of 1,900 sf of trees, the removal of approximately 1,700 sf of bituminous pavement, of which approximately 590 sf is within the Buffer Zone, the construction the proposed chemical feed building having a foot print of approximately 25 feet x 30 feet, installation of approximately 170 feet of new water main, and the paving of approximately 3,200 sf of the access drive of which approximately 1,700 sf is repaving. Note that approximately 640 sf of existing and new paving is within the Buffer Zone. The well field is to be abandoned.

The temporary chlorine feed station is proposed to be located on the east side of Main Street, just off the right-of-way of Main Street/Route 28, about 200 feet from the town line at the northern edge of the 327 Main Street property. This feed station will consist of a portable trailer that will house the chemical feed equipment and electrical gear required to power the chemical equipment. The installation of the temporary system will require 200 sf of trenching to install power wiring from and existing control panel to the trailer, to install a chemical feed injection line from the trailer to an existing underground water meter vault and for a small water return line to be connected downstream of the meter vault back to the temporary trailer to monitor chlorine residual concentrations. This area is currently disturbed, and no new alteration will be necessary. The temporary feed station will be removed once the permanent feed stations come online.

Project Impacts and Mitigation

Bordering Land Subject to Flooding:

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 303 Main Street Site - The 303 Main Street chlorine feed station site is not within the 100-year Flood Zone.

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 327 Central Street Site - Due to the configuration of the existing infrastructure on the site it is not practicable to locate the Central Street chlorine feed station outside of BLSF. Locating the building outside of BLSF would require significantly more clearing and land disturbance, the installation of additional water mains and other utilities, and the extension or rerouting of the access drive.

The Central Street chlorine feed station is proposed to be constructed entirely within the BLSF. The removal of the existing pump building will result in the removal of impediments to the movement of flood water and increase flood storage, offsetting much of the flood storage lost through the construction of the new building. A compensatory flood storage area will incrementally offset the remaining flood storage that will be impacted. All other areas disturbed for construction will be returned to the pre-existing grades.

With the exception of the area of repavement and the removal of the existing building, all of the work will be over 100 feet from the BVW. Accordingly, a Wildlife Habitat Assessment is not required.

Temporary Chemical Feed Station at Main Street Site - The temporary chlorine feed station is proposed entirely within the BLSF. The only alteration proposed is approximately 200 sf of trenching to allow access to the underground vault, water main and power connections. After its removal the site will be restored to its previous condition.

Riverfront Area:

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 303 Main Street Site - None of the 303 Main Street site is within the Riverfront Area.

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 327 Central Street Site - Portions of the Central Street site is located within the 200-foot Riverfront Area from the Skug River. All the proposed work, however, is located outside of the Riverfront Area. The activity closest to the river is the removal of the fence around the pump house, which at its closest point is approximately 210 feet from the river.

Temporary Chemical Feed Station at Main Street Site - The temporary chlorine feed station will be located within the Riverfront Area. The only alteration proposed is approximately 200 sf of trenching to allow access to the underground vault, water main and power connections. After its removal the site will be restored to its previous condition. This will result in the disturbance of only 0.02% of the Riverfront Area on the sites.

Riverfront Area Alternatives Analysis

The only work proposed in the Riverfront Area is the temporary feed station which will be in a currently disturbed area, which will be in place only temporarily, and will only disturb approximately 200 sf of ground.

The temporary feed station needs to be as close to the town line as practical because all of the water entering the system must be chlorinated and the Town maintains existing infrastructure at this location. The town has explored using other nearby sites. All of those are either unavailable and/or would require significantly more disturbance.

Alternatives:

1. No Build: The water entering the system needs to be treated per Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency requirements for water system operation to maintain adequate chlorine residuals throughout the town's water supply system. Accordingly, the no build alternative is not an option because of the Town's requirement to adhere to regulatory requirements and due to the potential public health risks.

2. **Proposed Location:** While located within the Riverfront Area, the proposed location will not require any alteration of new areas and will require minimal excavation to connect to the existing vault, water main and power connections. For that reason, this is the preferred alternative.
3. **Locations Outside the Riverfront Area:** The town has explored other possible locations along Main Street. Other locations were either not available or would require extensive work to site the trailer, extend power, reroute piping to assure all water is chlorinated before the first customer and to install the feed line. Most of these other possible locations would significantly impact the businesses in the area by taking up parking areas or disrupting the traffic flow.

Buffer Zone:

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 303 Main Street Site - The 303 Main Street chlorine feed station will be located entirely within the Buffer Zone. Additionally, approximately 137 feet of water main, approximately 17 feet of drain discharge line and all the relocated storm drain will be in the Buffer Zone. All the work will take place in an area that is currently disturbed. Only 225 sf of new impervious area will result. At the closest point work is proposed about 55 feet from the BVW. There is, however, a stormwater basin between all the proposed work and the BVW.

Permanent Chemical Feed Station at 327 Central Street Site - At the Central Street site all the new work will be outside of the Buffer Zone. The existing pump station is in the Buffer Zone and is proposed to be removed. This disturbed area will be loamed and seeded. In addition, 640 sf of existing pavement is to be removed and then repaved within the Buffer Zone.

Temporary Chemical Feed Station at Main Street Site - The temporary chlorine feed station will be located entirely within the Buffer Zone. The only alteration proposed is approximately 200 sf of trenching to allow access to the underground vault, water main and for power connection. After its removal the site will be restored to its previous condition.

Recreation Area Planning and Maintenance

Goal R-1: Provide a range of recreational opportunities for all.

Objective R-1a Provide a diversified selection of year-round recreational programs for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

- Provide a safe and well-maintained public space for off-leash dogs, including potentially allowing dogs off-leash at specific locations during specified time frames
- Provide additional recreation opportunities and programming for seniors, such as a pickleball court and/or a senior league baseball field
- Provide additional bird-watching and wildlife-viewing areas
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of an indoor multi-use recreational facility
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of an indoor hockey rink
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of additional canoe/kayak water-access points, including at Eisenhaures Pond Park
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of a water play feature
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of “natural play” or “adventure play” areas
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, development of a new regulation-sized baseball diamond
- Evaluate the following locations for additional fields:
 - Mullin and IRP for creation of additional multi-purpose athletic fields
 - Smith and IRP for development of new recreational facilities, fields, and parks

Objective R-1b Provide a connected system of safe walking and biking routes and trails. See Objectives A-1 a, A-1 b, A-1 c, and L-3b.

- Evaluate feasibility of creating a new multi-use path through Town
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, completion of a Northern Town trail (see Action Plan Map)
- Identify rights-of ways and public easements that can be linked to existing trail systems
- Promote and establish safe bike routes (including protected bike lanes where feasible and shared roadway signs) on town roads.
- Support implementation of the 2016 Complete Streets policy and the 2017 *Complete Streets Prioritization Plan*

Objective R-1c Cooperate and coordinate with Regional and State recreation planning efforts.

Goal R-2: Maintain a high quality of recreational service for all residents.

Objective R-2a Implement management strategies for the upkeep and maintenance of all recreational resources.

- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, irrigation for existing playing fields at Mullin Recreation Area
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, future uses and improvements to Park Street Field
- Rehabilitate building and make bathrooms accessible at Clarke Park
- Continue to provide recycling receptacles at parks

Objective R-2c Strengthen resiliency of recreation facilities to climate impacts.

- Continue to plant trees and add shade cover to reduce sun and heat exposure at play facilities, walkways, and other facilities.
- Support implementation of the actions identified in the 2018 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, where appropriate

Natural Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration, & Enhancement

Goal NR-1: Protect water resources to restore the ecological integrity of the Ipswich River Watershed.

Objective NR-1a Continue efforts to monitor and implement clean up strategies for Town waterways.

- Continue annual spring clean up of the Ipswich River
- Consult and implement recommended strategies of the Ipswich River Watershed Association's *Handbook for Municipal Managers of the Ipswich River Watershed*
- Promote Low Impact Development strategies and green infrastructure for cost-effective and sustainable stormwater management

Objective NR-1b Continue to encourage and promote town-wide water saving techniques.

- Continue to work with Andover on Sister Pond project
- Continue to encourage and promote town-wide water saving techniques
 - Prepare brochures for homeowners and developers about best management practices that promote water protection and conservation
 - Seek to increase use of rain barrels

Objective NR-1c Identify and eliminate sources of point and non-point pollution in all Town water bodies.

- Continue to monitor water quality of Martins Pond
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, extending public sewer to improve water quality near Martins Pond

Goal NR-2: Protect natural features to maintain biological diversity and preserve scenic qualities.

Objective NR-2a Protect corridors and unfragmented natural areas that have high value for wildlife habitat, rare plants and animals, woodlands, wetlands, and waterways.

- Prioritize protection of lands within existing wildlife corridors and with unique environmental features. See Objective L-1 a.
- Develop a strategic plan that identifies a process and timeline for certifying all town vernal pools

Objective NR-2b Encourage private and public development that protects open space systems and enhances natural resources.

- Work with local schools to raise public awareness and understanding of natural areas through interpretive programming and ensure nature trails in conservation areas support the programming
- Work with private landowners to identify strategies for protecting the Town's remaining agricultural properties, including Seven-Acre Farm (not yet started)

- Objective NR-2c Integrate historic and scenic resource protection into open space planning strategies.
- Identify lands/sites of historic and cultural interest, including the Putnam House, and develop a preservation strategy
- Objective NR-2d Improve Town zoning and development standards and regulations to support protection of natural resources.
- Consider adopting a scenic roads bylaw
- Objective NR-2e Promote sound environmental management, stewardship, and use of all Town open spaces.
- Sponsor an annual environmental awareness day
- Objective NR-2f Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resiliency to climate change and extreme weather.
- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, measures to reduce emissions in North Reading, such as developing a Local Energy Action Plan, Net Zero Action Plan, or other activities.
 - Support implementation of the *2018 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan*, where appropriate.

Access to Public Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities

Goal A-1: Expand and improve access to public open space and recreation areas.

- Objective A-1a Produce comprehensive maps of Town open spaces and recreation resources identifying parking, access points, trails, and permitted uses.
- Create a Walkable Trails Map
 - Continue to provide information to realtors to include in welcome packages to new homeowners
 - Continue to work with chamber and local businesses to publicize parks and recreational activities
- Objective A-1b Develop and enhance trails and trailheads for public access to existing Town conservation lands, where appropriate. See Objective L-2b.
- Provide access to Eisenhaures Pond Park with defined and well-maintained trails, considering the *2012 Eisenhaures Pond Park Natural Resource Inventory and Conceptual Trail Plan*
 - Improve trailhead and signage of trails at Swan Pond
 - Improve public access to Harold Parker State Forest and Ives Memorial Forest
- Objective A-1c Improve access to parks for community members who do not drive, including youth and seniors (see Objective R-1b)
- Identify land available for development of new neighborhood parks to provide all residents with recreation areas that are easily accessible
 - Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, improved access from High School and Town Common area to Ipswich River Park through walking, biking, transit, school bus, or other means
 - Support the prioritization of sidewalks, bike paths, and other appropriate walking and biking trails for winter plowing

Goal A-2: Provide universal access to facilities and programs.

- Objective A-2a Provide experiences at Town parks, playgrounds, and other recreation areas for people with a variety of levels of mobility, sense awareness, and mental capacity.
- Pursue all accessibility improvements listed in Section 504
 - Annually assess all town open space facilities and identify accessibility improvements needed.

Land Acquisition, Funding & Management

Goal L-1: **Plan and coordinate protection of lands of conservation and recreation interest.**

Objective L-1a Identify and prioritize lands of interest.

- Develop an official, cross-department list of priority land of conservation and recreation interest based on the following list of and the *2014 North Suburban Planning Council Subregional Priority Mapping Project Final Report* as a resource.
 - Lands that have high value for aesthetic purpose, scenic or community character;
 - Areas that create contiguous open space, enhance connections between open spaces, and create new trail networks;
 - Areas that are considered critical for environmental reasons -- protection of natural resources such as the Atlantic Cedar Swamp, water resource and wetland protection, and wildlife habitat and corridors;
 - Areas with potential to serve as neighborhood parks, playing fields or other sports facilities;
 - Lands which contain unique landscape or geologic features;
 - Lands located in aquifer protection districts;
 - Lands which have high value for cross-over or shared use for other municipal purposes such as schools, cemeteries, or community buildings;
 - Lands which include historic buildings and/or structures or have other historic value.
- Develop strategies for conserving and/or acquiring land of conservation and recreation interest
- Monitor list of parcels of conservation interest and track changes in ownership, use, availability and development interests
- Check all building permit applications against the list of parcels of interest for protection

Objective L-1b Identify and secure funding for Town open space acquisition and management.

- Pursue adoption of Community Preservation Act
- Encourage private land conservation measures, especially of prioritized lands of interest
- Implement a system to inventory and track private open space properties that are deed restricted or owned/managed by private neighborhood trusts (such as those that are part of a PUD or OSRD development)

Goal L-2: **Manage Town open space properties to protect natural resources while encouraging appropriate public use.**

Objective L-2a Establish a public land use and access policy for all Town lands to guide public access and land management planning.

- Create a management program for all conservation lands, including developing a Forest Stewardship program for Ives Memorial Forest
- Increase public information and awareness about designated hunting areas and restrictions on ATV use on public properties
- Implement a policy of “leave no trace” on all public lands and provide appropriate signage and enforcement. Provide disposal options at trail heads where problems persist
- Incorporate climate resiliency strategies, including invasive species removal, forest fire management, in management of public land

Objective L-2b Evaluate town-owned undesignated open space to dedicate portions to conservation or recreation use.

- Determine best use of former Smith property by assessing cost and benefit of options, including for public recreational uses

Objective L-2c Provide a cost-effective means of monitoring and maintaining town-owned open space and trails to prevent overuse, illegal dumping, unauthorized trail creation, and resource degradation.

- Develop and regularly update a list of maintenance and improvement projects that could be undertaken by volunteers
- Build a network of volunteers to undertake maintenance and improvement projects at recreation areas
- Evaluate potential for establishment of a land stewardship program for conservation lands that involves volunteers to monitor and report site misuse or disturbance
- Consider establishment of a town volunteer trail committee

Goal L-3: Coordinate protection and natural and recreational resources with multiple jurisdictions.

Objective L-3a Cooperate with neighboring towns and regional entities to design compatible and integrated management strategies for natural resource areas.

Objective L-3b Cooperate with neighboring towns and regional entities to plan and develop regional recreational areas and trail networks.

- Work with Danvers to expand trail system in the land owned by Danvers near Swan Pond
- Work with Middleton to expand Swan Pond trail system to connect with Middleton trails

Implementation

Goal I-1 **Ensure adequate staffing, resources, and communication for effective implementation of OSRP**

Objective I-1 a Improve capacity and communication to support OSRP implementation

- Evaluate and pursue, if appropriate, adding staff to Parks & Recreation Department
- Host an all-board task force meeting annually to review status of OSRP actions