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AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

**Amesbury Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee
MEETING MINUTES
October 30, 2024**

This meeting was conducted under the "Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" G.L. c. 30A, Section 20, signed on March 12, 2020.

Attending: Jonathan Sherwood, Michelle Faucher, Rich Hucksam, Fred Zackon, Jessica Redfern, Alison Mackay (Conservation Agent), Stephen Ridgley (public)

- Call to Order
- Minutes from September 25, 2024 meeting: Unanimously approved
- Public Comment: None
- Chair's Report:
 - Recap of meeting with new Con Comm Chair Amanda Worthington on 10/25, discussed OSNRTC activities and priorities, as well as opportunities for collaboration.
 - Reminded members of upcoming Greenbelt Open Space Conference for municipal partners, December 7, 2024
- Referrals: none at this time
- Scheduled Business:
 - Approve Woodsman Inc invoice for trail report: Zackon moved, Faucher seconded; unanimously approved.
 - Trail Assessment Report Review: Matthew Smith/Woodsman Inc. has delivered the commissioned report assessing conditions and providing recommendations for trails at Town Forest, Woodsom Farm, Battis Farm, and the Powow Conservation Area. Sherwood provided overview of report. Discussion ranged across the findings and recommendations from the report. Zackon suggested focusing on what items represent biggest hazards and what actions will give most 'bang for the buck'. Faucher suggested itemizing and counting how many of each type of recommendations there are for the various trail areas. Hucksam suggested prioritizing new signage and trail markings at Town Forest, as the report noted the confusing and maze-like character of the Town Forest trails, including trails that taper into swampy areas and wetlands. It was noted that a section of the trail indicated in yellow on the proposed trail map passes through private property and the permission to do so is unclear and should be resolved, especially before blazing it with new markings. Ridgley

noted that the new loops proposed in the report could be better re-colored, to leverage existing (though spotty) color markings on trails. Representing Amesbury Trails and Lake Gardner Improvement Association, Ridgley offered to organize effort to develop a trail marking plan, for implementation by volunteers. LGIA had already planned on building a new trailhead kiosk at Town Forest parking lot, as well as upgrading a new trail map.

- Battis Farm – Powow Conservation Area land management report:
Sherwood and Giezentanner have walked the properties. Draft report is expected in November, with public forum planned for December, substituting for November and December regular OSNRTC meetings.

- Motion to adjourn: Zackon moved, Redfern seconded. Unanimous.

Minutes unanimously approved at 01/22/2035 meeting, respectfully submitted by Jonathan Sherwood, Chair, OSNRTC