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AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Amesbury Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee

MEETING AGENDA

October 22, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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.

Agenda

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Attendance: Jonathan Sherwood, Pascal Rettig, Rich Hucksam, Fred Zackon
2. Minutes from August 27, 2025 Meeting: Minutes were unanimously approved; motion by Pascal Rettig, seconded by Fred Zackon
3. Public Comment: None
4. Communications: None
5. Chair's Report
 - Invasives Demonstration Project – Woodsom Farm. Sherwood provided updated to effort to run a demonstration invasives management project at a small portion of Woodsom Farm, the rectangular plot of wooded land immediately adjacent to the north parking lot. Invasive plant identification 'parties' were held on Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5, attended by approximately a dozen individuals. 100+ invasive and native plant identifications were made using the iNaturalist smart phone app, using a Project in the app set up for this purpose. Committee reviewed draft proposal for City; Sherwood will submit plan to Mayor's Office by October 24, 2025. Next steps: upon approval, initiate mitigation work.
 - Invasive Plant Management Plan: In the bigger picture, if the community launches a town-wide invasive plant management plan targeting city-owned properties, the City will need to have a plan in place that describes methods, identifies target plants, and prioritizes specific areas for mitigation (what and how). Some folks at LGIA and Amesbury Eco-Gardners have begun drafting a plan. The City already has strong methods (what, why, how) documentation from the Audubon plans; Sherwood will work with partners on a larger plan.
 - Whitehall Fields mowing: Sherwood provided update regarding the clearing and mowing of the 'upper' fields of Woodsom Farm along Whitehall Road. These fields

had not been mowed in 10+ years, at least, with many forbs and trees growing in, including several invasive tree species. Sherwood inquired about the mowing with Joe Buckley at DPW. The DPW managed the clearing and mowing; request initiated from the Amesbury Fire Chief, who was concerned about this area amidst the extreme drought conditions being experienced in eastern MA. Buckley indicated that plan is to continue to mow this area on an every other year basis.

6. Referrals:

- None at this time

7. Other Business

- Re-appointment of Michelle Faucher to Community Preservation Committee. Zackon moved and Rettig seconded; unanimously approved.

8. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Zackon, seconded by Rettig; unanimously approved. Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes unanimously approved at 01/28/2026 meeting, respectfully submitted by Jonathan Sherwood, Chair, OSNRTC