



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Amesbury Open Space, Natural Resources, and Trails Committee MEETING MINUTES July 23, 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.

Attending:

- Call to Order: 7:05 p.m., Jonathan Sherwood, Rich Hucksam, Pascal Rettig, and Michelle Faucher in attendance. Conservation Agent Amanda Armington also attended.
- Minutes from June 25, 2025 meeting: Draft minutes not prepared for meeting; no action.
- Public Comment: None
- Communications:
 - City Council sent 2 referrals, to be considered at August 2025 meeting.
2025-82 An Order to Dispose of 24 S Hampton Road formerly AES &
2025-83 An Ordinance to Amend Zoning Map - 24 S Hampton Road. Item was circulated to OSNRTC members.
- Chair's Report: Updated Committee regarding organization of invasives group. Sherwood attended a working session of the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS), on a work morning pulling a large stand of invasive burning bushes from a conservation property owned by AVIS. Lessons learned: participants were enthusiastic about effort. Invasives task effort was only 2 years old but had already built a good rhythm of systematically working through specific sites (this work day followed on a first past through the stand last summer). Group had a standing inventory of all necessary tools – gloves, pruners, extractors, shears, etc. purchased with organizational (non-profit) funds. The event was as social as it was effective; the social aspect helped energize the group. Participants came and went during event and week to week. Sherwood is trying to organize a meet-up in August for interested parties in Amesbury.
- Referrals: N/A
- Other Business: As planned, discussed content for CPC presentation in August. Sherwood shared proposed outline (below). Focus on 'not reinventing the wheel' and leveraging existing open space and recreation plans, including the 2020-2027 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the 2018 Fields Study, land management plans, and the 2030 Amesbury Master Plan. Organize key points for CPC around the high level Goals and Objectives from the 2020 OSR.

- Notes:

Guiding Principle: In order to leverage prior work, CPA Open Space and Recreation priorities and criteria will be guided by existing planning documents, including the 2020-2027 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Amesbury Conservation Land Management Policies and Principles document, the Town Forest, Woodsom Farm, and Battis Farm/Powow Conservation Area planning documents, the recent Amesbury Master Plan and the 2018 Amesbury Sports Fields Master Plan.

From OSR: As Amesbury prepares and plans for the effects of climate change, the overarching goals of its 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) are to preserve and enhance the City's existing open spaces, natural resources, and recreational facilities and leverage additional opportunities for passive and active recreation for all residents through a resiliency lens. Considering these overarching goals, the OSRP contemplates the following sub-goals and objectives:

NOTE: CPA can be used to fund future projects through dedicated Funds AND can be used to make current and future bond payments on large-scale capital projects.

OSR Goal 1: Preserve, restore, enhance, and acquire natural resources....

- Fund an Open Space acquisition fund for future open space expenditures
- Chapter 61a (Agricultural) purchases

OSR Goal 2: Maintain, enhance, and create recreational facilities for the enjoyment of Amesbury residents and visitors of all ages, abilities, and interests.

- Soccer / rectangular field creation/improvements
- Softball field improvements
- Tennis courts improvements
- Playgrounds
- Old Amesbury Elementary Open Space, improve with repurposing
- Riverwalk improvements
- Upper Woodsom - community garden, dog park, playground

OSR Goal 3: Improve care, management, and awareness of existing protected land, natural resources, and recreational facilities.

- Signage
- Invasive plant mitigation, including waterways
- Trail improvements
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (2026-27)
- Purchase inventory of plant control and trail management supplies

OSR Goal 4: Improve access to and connectivity among open spaces, recreational facilities, and other city resources for all community members.

- All-person trail at Woodsom or Battis
- Fund professional accessibility plan for recreational facilities

OSNRTC supported outline for presentation at August 2025 CPC meeting. Sherwood will work into a PPT. Sherwood will also send Howard Snyder at City (project manager) links to planning documents to be referenced, including the Fields Master Plan.

- Motion to adjourn: 8:30 p.m., Sherwood moved, Faucher seconded. Unanimous.

Minutes unanimously approved at 08/27/2025 meeting, respectfully submitted by Jonathan Sherwood, Chair, OSNRTC