

**Plymouth Public Lands  
July 19, 2007  
Minutes  
Prepared by: Lee Hartmann**

*These minutes are not verbatim – they are staffs interpretation of what took place at the meeting. – Open Meeting Law – Section III.*

Board Members: Christine Reardon, Doris Johnson, Casey Shetterly, Robert Bielen, and William Koehan

Staff Members: Lee Hartmann, David Gould and Patrick Farah

Public: Joan Bartlett

**Approve Minutes**

Minutes from the June 21, 2007 meeting were approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Guest Speaker – David Gould, Natural Resource Officer**

Mr. Gould stated that when thinking about decision making criteria, linking of habitat areas is very important. He noted that the Eel River and Town Brook corridors are excellent examples. Town owned open space in these area helps to protect the water quality of the rivers as well as the water quality of Plymouth Harbor. Open space in the Eel River corridor is also important as it helps minimize nutrient loads typically associated with the development of land.

Mr. Gould also stated that maintaining access to the coast and to our fresh water lakes and ponds is important. Plymouth is fortunate to have miles of shoreline and hundreds of lakes and ponds. However, public access to these areas is extremely limited. The recreational facilities at Fresh Pond and Morton Park are good examples of the type of water access we should be encouraging.

He noted that maintaining the existing inventory of town owned land is a challenge. Litter and trash clean-up is a constant problem. Use and access to existing town land could be improved but current staffing (10 Parks Department staff and 3 Tree Division staff) limits the Department's ability to expand access. However, this should not be used as a reason not to acquire land for the future.

Mr. Hartmann said that land banking is important. We should be setting land aside for the future.

Mr. Gould stated that the recently completed water master plan recommends acquiring land adjacent to current and potential well sites. The number of wells and amount of recreational land serving West Plymouth is limited. Most communities would be happy with the number of recreational facilities that Plymouth now has. Of course, we could always use additional recreational facilities and land. He also noted the importance of holding land that can serve as drainage areas for roads. He said that the 1000 acres of Tax Title land provides an opportunity to link the Red Brook corridor to the Century Bogs area and the State Forest. From a habitat standpoint, the western portion of the 1000 acres appears to be more valuable. Retaining smaller parcels in the downtown or in villages is also important.

**Committee Focus**

The committee reviewed the Overall Guiding Principles and Goals. The committee decided to individually review Overall Guiding Principles and Goals and comment on them at the next meeting. It was the consensus of the committee to review and approve the Overall Guiding Principles and Goals as soon as possible and begin an actual parcel by parcel review of town land.

**Meeting dates & Times**

Next meeting scheduled for 8/2/07 @ 7PM location to be arranged.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.