



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE

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**MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 09, 2022
PUBLIC FORUM**

Present: Barbara McNamee (Chair), Christine Johnson, Glenn King, Mike Tonry, & Joel Vande Werken were in attendance with Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner & Jonathan Smith, Chair Disability Commission also present.

Absent: Rainer Forst, Chloe Mawn, David Troen-Krasnow, Mike Proto, & Bruce Frieswick did not attend the meeting.

Public: Ashley Bronson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was a hybrid meeting, with some members joining via Zoom and others in-person at the Town Hall. Chair Barbara McNamee opened the meeting acknowledging other members (present/absent) and the public in attendance.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

G Bechtholdt described plan update process and reviewed draft sections which have been posted on the town web site. G Bechtholdt then invites questions and comments from those present. Questions received about the priority of a community-based park vs. upgrades to current facilities; about the status of the Blackstone Valley Greenway (bikeway) project through Northbridge; and about our plans to engage with ADA requirements.

III. SECTION UPDATES

All sections are now largely complete, but there are still gaps in a number of places in the current drafts. Maps have been added to the draft on the web site as well. Each member of the committee is asked to thoroughly review the entire draft plan in advance of the next meeting, to identify gaps in our report, and provide any information they are able to offer to fill in those gaps. Once we are able to fill in the gaps, we can present a final draft version of the plan. Hopefully this can happen early in the new year.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items: ongoing review of draft Section(s) & solicitation of letters of support from various municipal boards/commissions. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm (via ZOOM).

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:40 p.m.

Prepared By: Joel Vande Werken, Clerk

Date Approved: _____