

## **AGENDA**

### **New Salem Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Project**

**Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**6:00pm – 7:30pm**

***Meeting held virtually via Zoom***

**Join via weblink:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88071227750?pwd=Rkh2SzVXOThiTkIYKzJ6L1ZZYWZzUT09>

**Join via phone: +1 646 931 3860, Meeting ID: 880 7122 7750, Passcode: 743318**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve last meeting minutes
3. Survey
  - a. Add questions/modify questions

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p6LV6p6WPZ6GEX0sIRbF\\_96YTGexIGvRUwhkqS7tVrU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p6LV6p6WPZ6GEX0sIRbF_96YTGexIGvRUwhkqS7tVrU/edit)

Do you think Question 1 will provide helpful data for this OSRP update as well as future work in town?

-We are a scenic byways community and have to protect stonewalls. Add native american related sites and features to this list (whether or not one realizes those things exist on their or other land).

-These “resources” are presented in different formats – most are resources, but some are phrases, like “preserving scenic views.” The question asks about resources that should be conserved, so it would be helpful to change everything to nouns. E.g., preserving scenic views should just be scenic views, similarly for historical buildings, Maintaining farmland should be “farmland maintained as open space”, etc.

-I would separate out wildlife corridors from pollinator habitat, those are different things

-Please separate out “historic buildings” from “historic spaces” and be more specific about what a historic space would mean

-This list would feel shorter/easier to read through if it were arranged by like with like, for continuity - For example, all of the wildlife-related items should be near each other, gravel roads near stone walls/cellar holes, scenic views near ridgelines, farmland near open fields, etc.

Do you want any more specific options for Question 2?

-Preservation of historic buildings should be added as an option.

-Please add something about adopting funding mechanisms to support conservation, recreation, or historic projects – this could reference CPA specifically or be a broader statement

Should we change Question 4 to a multiple choice rather than a ranking?

-Feel like the ranking would be helpful to prioritize as likely most who have concern about would agree with all of them. Also, I might offer a space to add any other suggestions or ideas.

ELIMINATED Question 5 may not be necessary if you are trying to cut down. Thoughts?

-Feel like we could forgo and maybe use Q6 to address those that actually exist already to determine how to improve. We could add an open ended section to that one to add any additional activities that aren't listed.

-I think it would be better to combine this with #2, adding options that aren't included in #2.

-I don't think a floodplain corridor is a term – shouldn't this just be floodplain?

-“Wildlife corridors” is used elsewhere in the survey, to keep terminology consistent, I would use that here as well.

-I would change the question to have two options for each activity “currently do in or near New Salem” and “would like to do in New Salem”. There may well be activities that people currently do elsewhere that they would prefer to do in town if it were possible.

Question 6 (Question 5 now)

-Please rearrange this to cluster like things together – e.g., playgrounds near recreation fields, put all trails near each other, put DCR land before listing other properties.

-I would recommend having an option for “Other DCR land around the Quabbin” rather than listing specific gates. You could leave a text box for people to specify the gate/location.

The phrase “needs work” is short but might be confusing. I would suggest something like “in need of repair/maintenance”

Question 7 (Question 6 now)

-I would keep specific physical locations (like the first nine items), but many of these are the same as #5. For things that are activities rather than physical spaces, I would remove (if they overlap with #5), or add to #5. Just keep specific physical spaces in this section.

-I would provide “Improve” and “Expand” as separate options. Improving existing facilities could be quite different from expanding. We have a lot of recreation infrastructure that isn't well-maintained, and people should be able to differentiate between wanting “more” vs. “better.”

-It doesn't seem appropriate that most people can choose any type of facility, but if you have ADA-compliant needs, you have to check a very broadly worded box. Can we add a textbox to this option that says. “Please specify what types of ADA-accessible recreation opportunities are of greatest interest

to you.” or something like that?

-How about “historical museums/historical society buildings” or something like that?

-What about art or music venues? E.g., concert series, arts night/open studio

-This list is quite long!

-Could combine walking/running/jogging, since these would include the same infrastructure.

-Downhill skiing and river tubing are not really options in New Salem – should be removed.

-How about combining things that would use the same infrastructure, e.g., “lawn games (e.g., croquet, cornhole)”

-What about swimming?

In question 11 are these the correct areas of town? I found them on the town website before it was updated.

-Eliminate

-We should discuss these terms as a group. I live near the former village of Macedonia, which isn’t listed here. I wouldn’t know how to choose from this list. I’m not sure if people strongly identify as being from a particular corner of New Salem or not – it might not matter.

Do you want to eliminate question 15? This was a question Bernardston had to gauge public involvement in town.

-I think it can’t hurt. We need more volunteers. I would add a third option of I am already on a board.

What are the best ways for you to receive information about open space and recreation issues?

-Text - We don’t have any way to text people, and it doesn’t seem likely the town is going to develop/maintain a text thread with people. I would remove that as an option.

-“Town newsletter” should be changed to “New Salem News” listserve

-Public access TV is only in Orange and Athol – our town government doesn’t have a way to share information through this medium

-Greenfield Recorder – also need to add Montague Reporter and Athol Daily News

-I would be more specific on social media – ask about Nextdoor New Salem, Facebook, and “other” probably

Would you be interested in helping a town committee or board?

-I think it is great to include this question! But there should also be an option “Already serving”.

-There should be a space for open-ended comments at the end.

b. Survey Distribution

i. Method

1. Options

- a. Hard surveys around town
- b. Post cards with QR codes and links to survey website  
distributed to all households in town
  - i. Audrey will send Committee the Bernardston OSRP  
post card example

ii. Dates

1. Committee sends feedback on survey and postcard anytime until  
September 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. Next meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup>
3. Will send out postcards after that meeting
4. Might distribute Flyers or postcards to local stores/library

c. Close Meeting 7:35pm

Attendees: Zara Dowling, Heidi Bohn, Josh Rapp, Kimberly Noake-MacPhee, Audrey Boraski